

BRIDE STORY

12

Kaoru
Mori



BER- E- S- STORY

12

Kaoru
Mori





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◆
CHAPTER 78
SPARE TIME,
PART I
◆

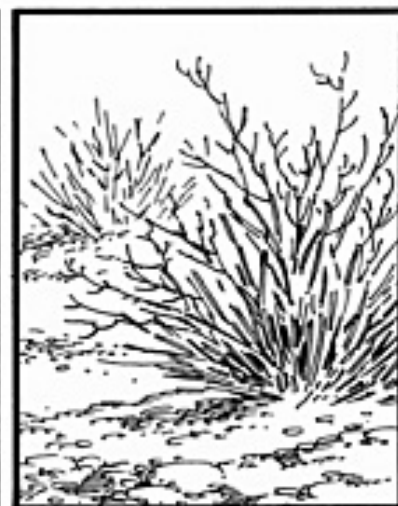
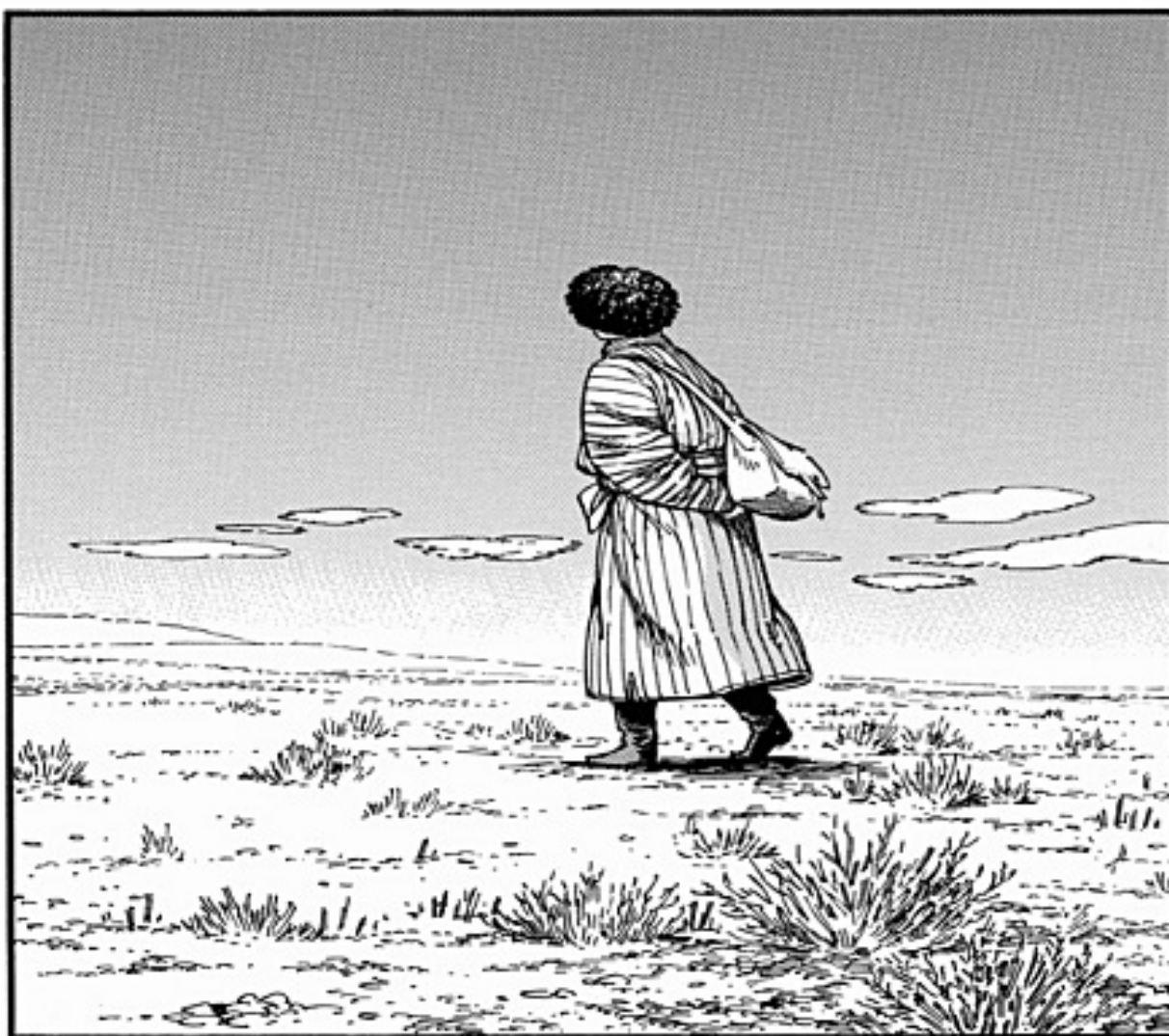
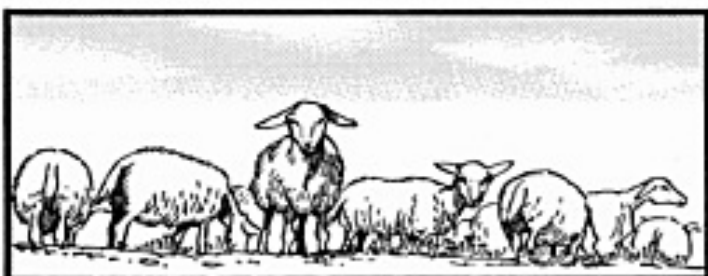


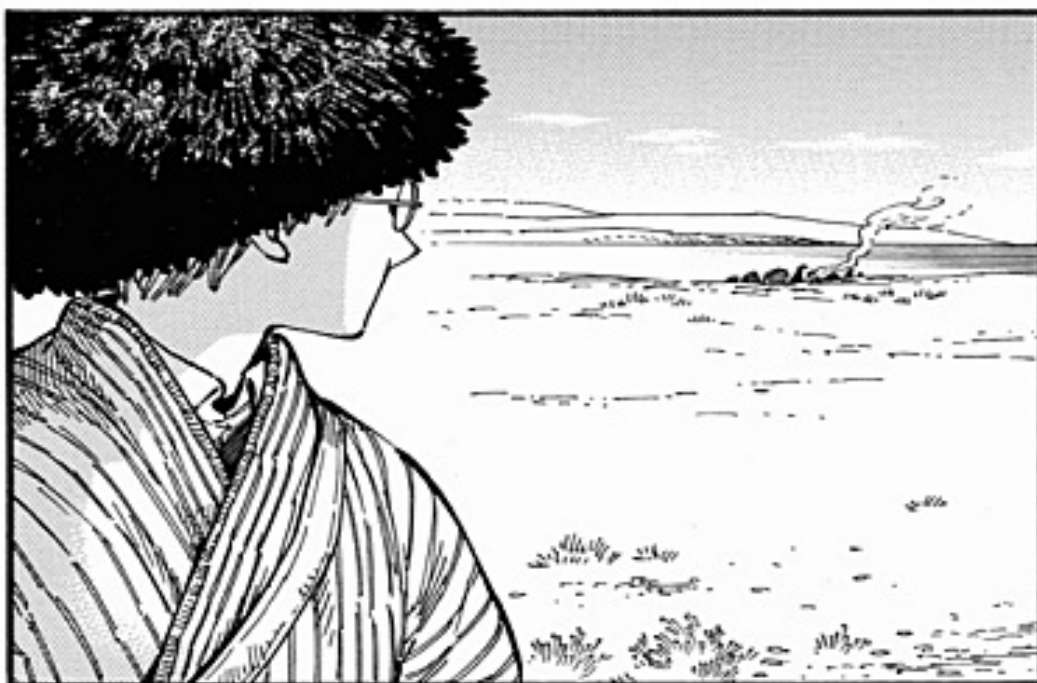
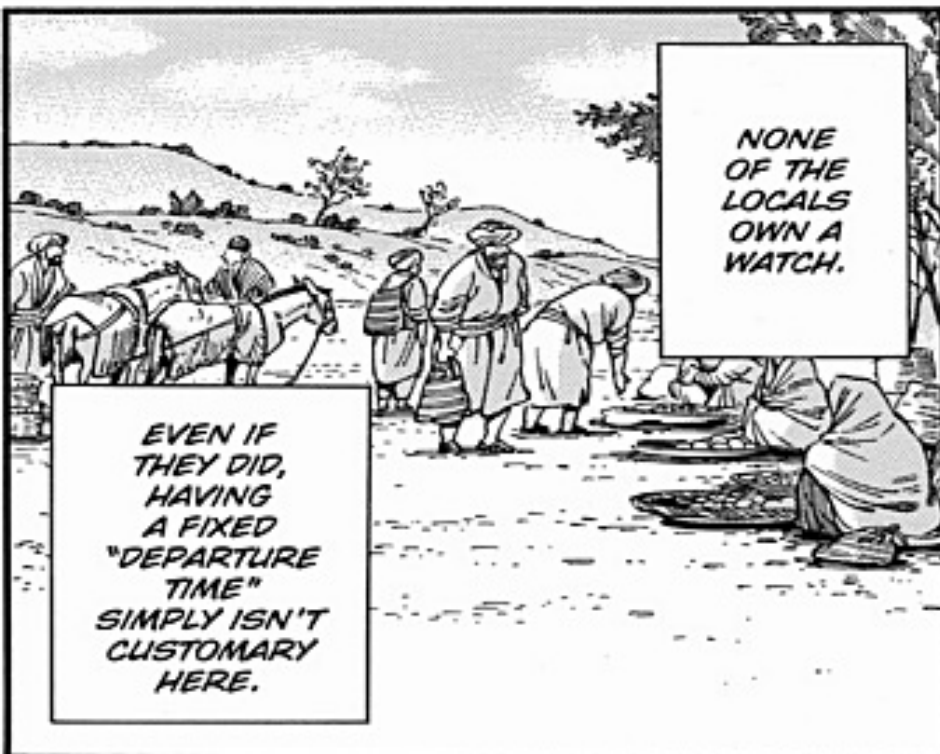
NOTHING
TO DO...

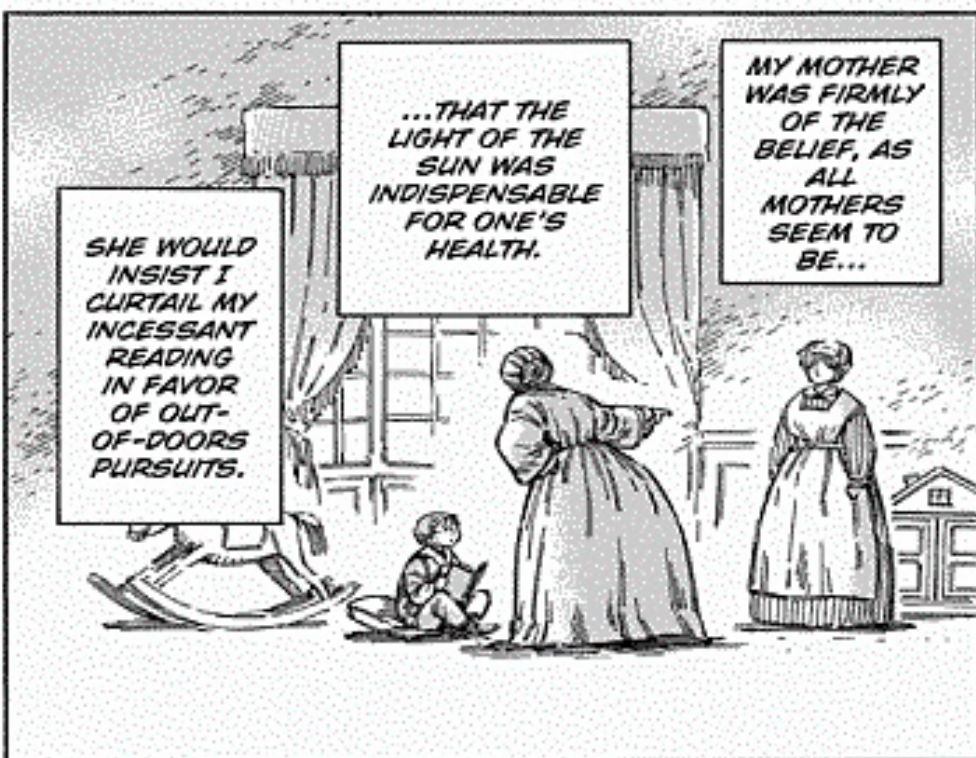












SHE WOULD
INSIST I
CURTAIL MY
INCESSANT
READING
IN FAVOR
OF OUT-
OF-DOORS
PURSUITS.

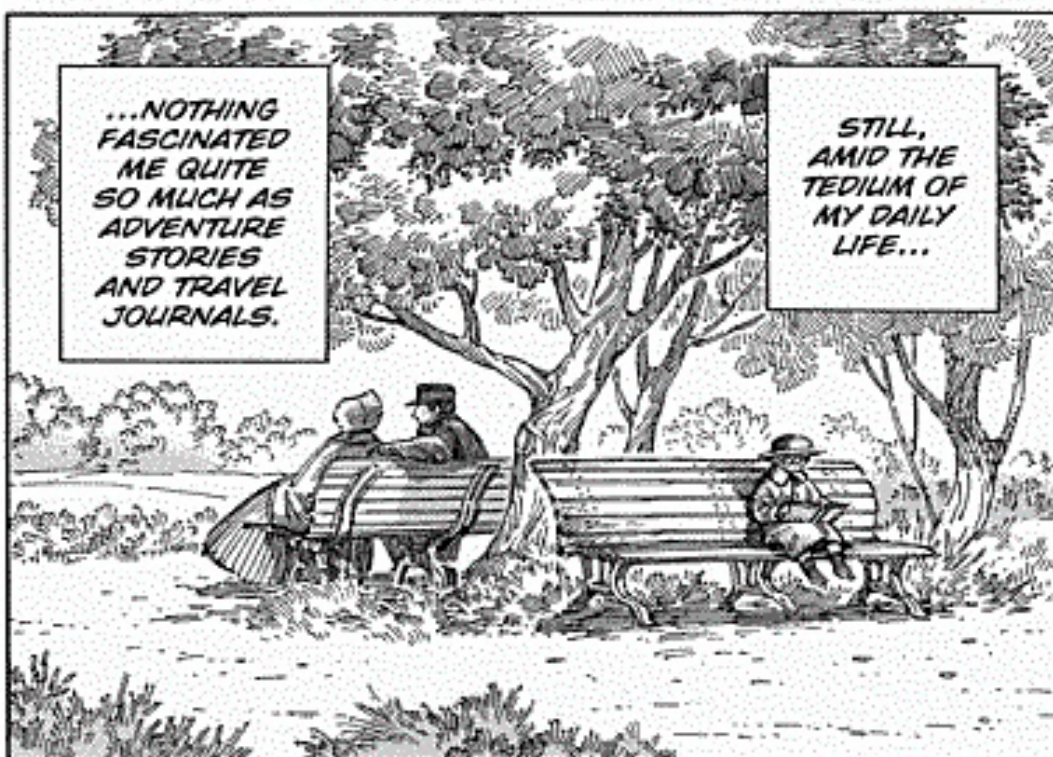
...THAT THE
LIGHT OF THE
SUN WAS
INDISPENSABLE
FOR ONE'S
HEALTH.

MY MOTHER
WAS FIRMLY
OF THE
BELIEF, AS
ALL
MOTHERS
SEEM TO
BE...



WHEN
I STILL
LIVED AT
HOME...

...I
WOULD
SPEND
ANY FREE
TIME I
HAD WITH
A BOOK.



...NOTHING
FASCINATED
ME QUITE
SO MUCH AS
ADVENTURE
STORIES
AND TRAVEL
JOURNALS.

STILL,
AMID THE
TEDIUM OF
MY DAILY
LIFE...





...AND
MIGHT
BE THEIR
VERSION
OF A DULL,
EVERYDAY
LIFE, LIKE
MINE BACK
HOME.

...THAT, FOR
THE PEOPLE
OF THIS
REGION,
LIVING OFF
THE LAND
OCCUPIES
THE WHOLE
OF THEIR
DAILY LIVES...

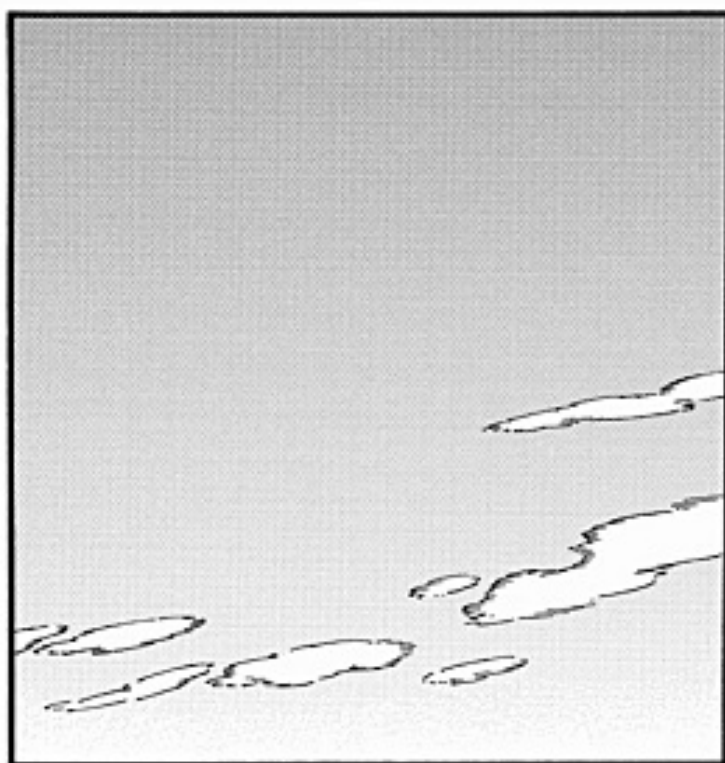
ON MY
TRAVELS,
I CAME
TO SEE...

...EXPLORING
THESE
DISTANT, ARID
LANDS...

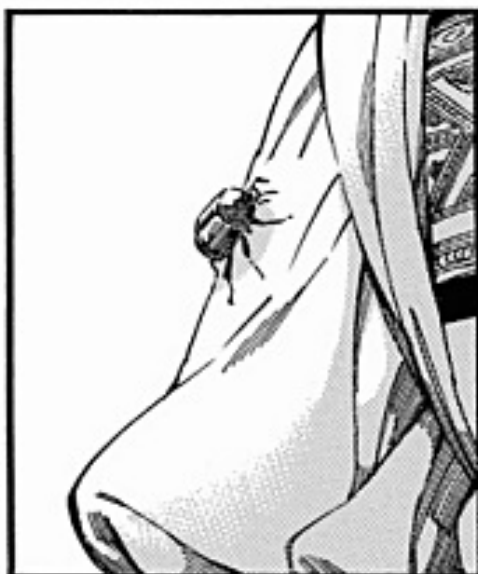
BUT FAR
GREATER
THAN THE
PLEASURE
OF
WANDERING
THE PATHS
OF HOME...

...BRINGS
ME TRUE
JOY.

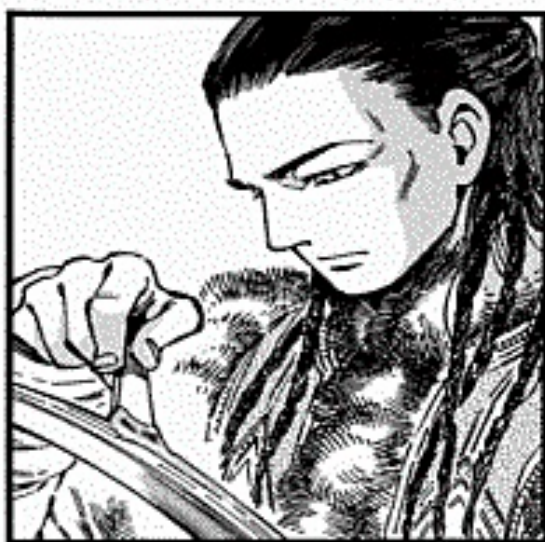
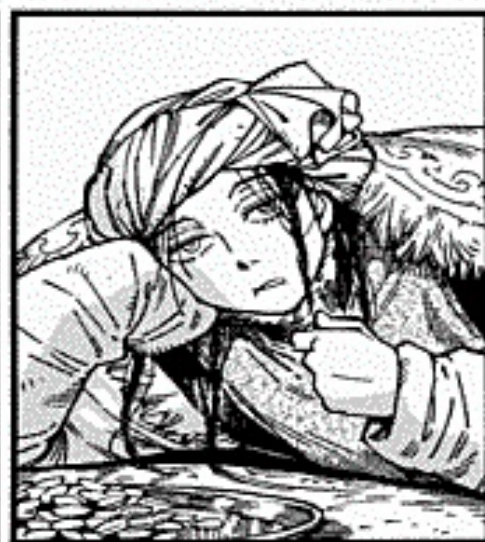
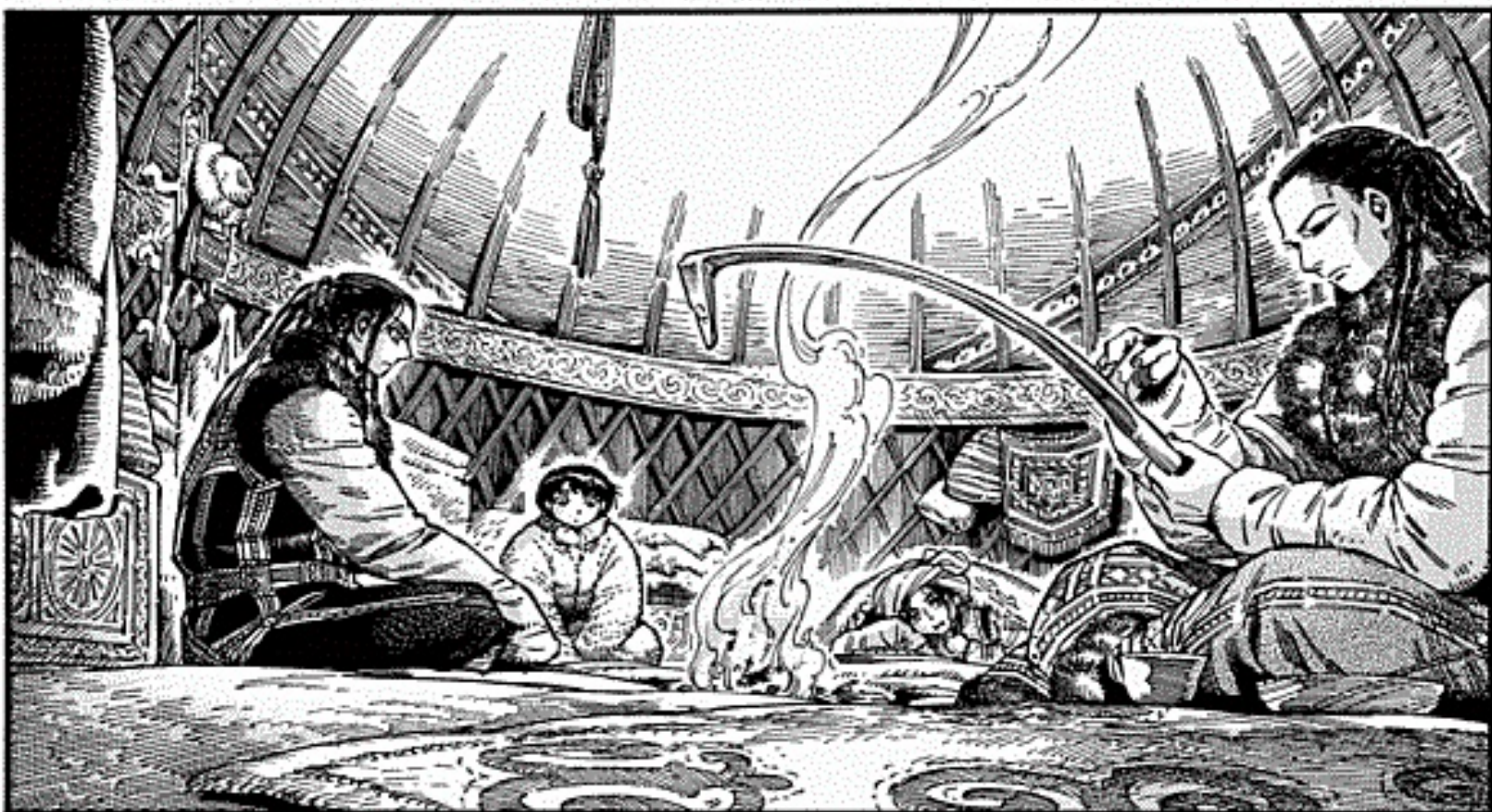
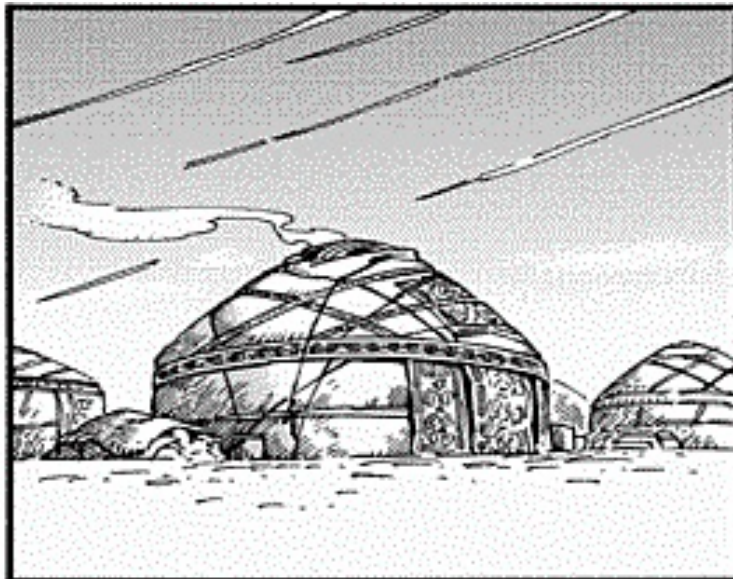


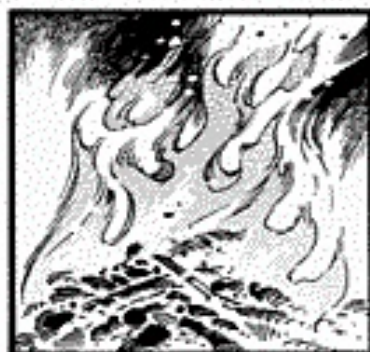


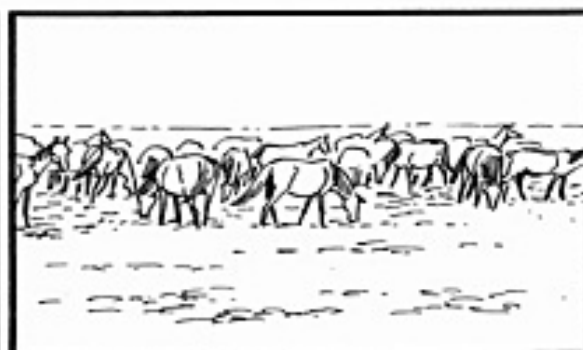
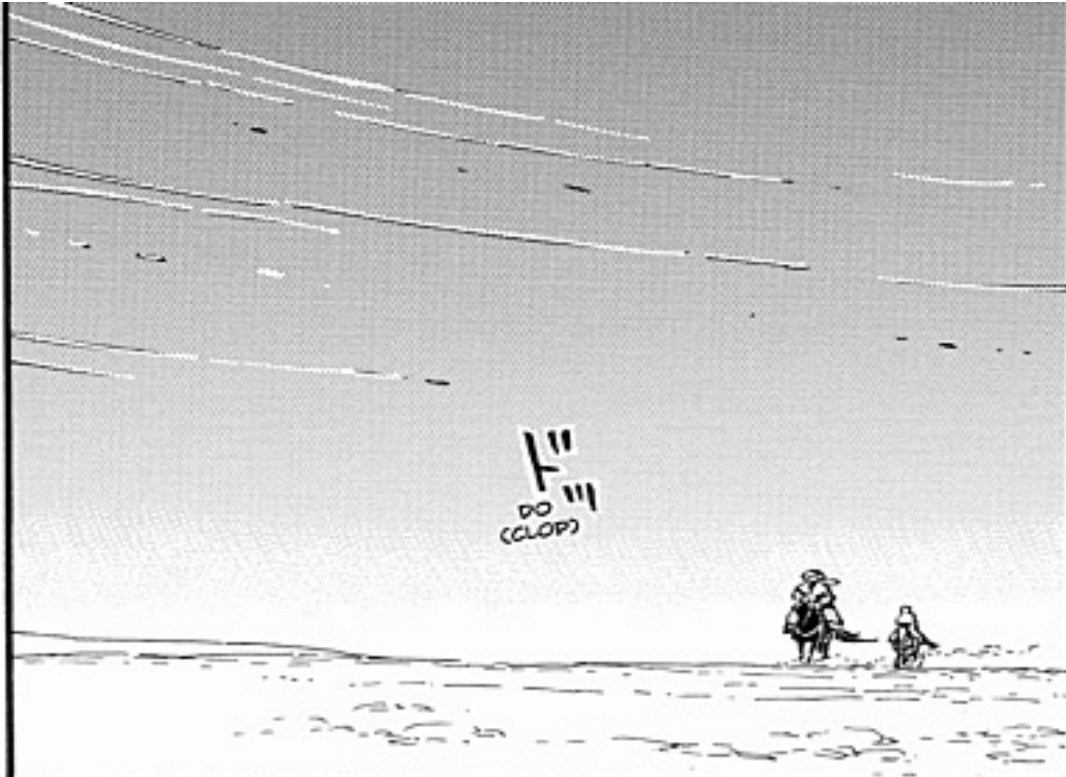


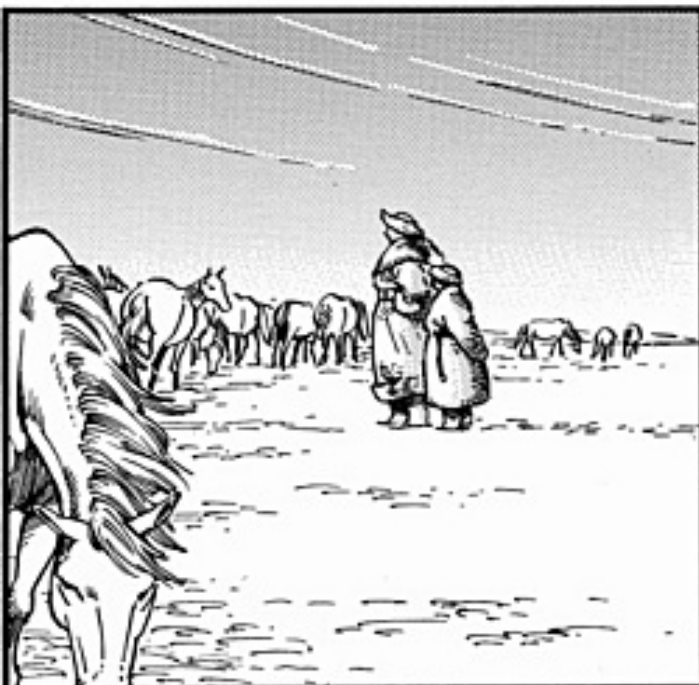












BYUOOOOO
(WHOOOOO)
オオオオオ

THIS
WIND IS
TERRIBLE!

WE'LL
JUST
HAVE TO
WAIT IT
OUT AT
HOME.

NO
FISHING
TODAY.

REALLY
ROUGH
SEAS.

BATA

BATA
(FLAPPA)

I
WANNA
SEE
ACRO-
BATS.

I WISH
SOMEBODY
WOULD
THROW
A DINNER
PARTY.

CAN'T
SOME
TRAVEL-
ING
MIN-
STRELS
SHOW
UP?

I
WANNA
GO INTO
TOWN.





SAY YOU
HAD A WALLET
THAT WAS
ALWAYS FULL
OF MONEY,
WHAT WOULD
YOU BUY?

HEY,
SARM!



IF A KING
OR SOMEBODY
LIKE THAT
CAME TO TOWN
TOMORROW,
WHAT WOULD
YOU DO?

HEY,
SAMI!



I MEAN, A
KING BRINGS
AN ENTIRE
ENTOURAGE
WHEN HE VISITS
A HOUSE,
RIGHT?

YOU
GOTTA
FEED THEM
AND PUT
THEM UP.



WHAT
WOULD
I DO?



WHAT
EVEN IS
THAT?



...AND ADD
TONS OF
ROOMS.

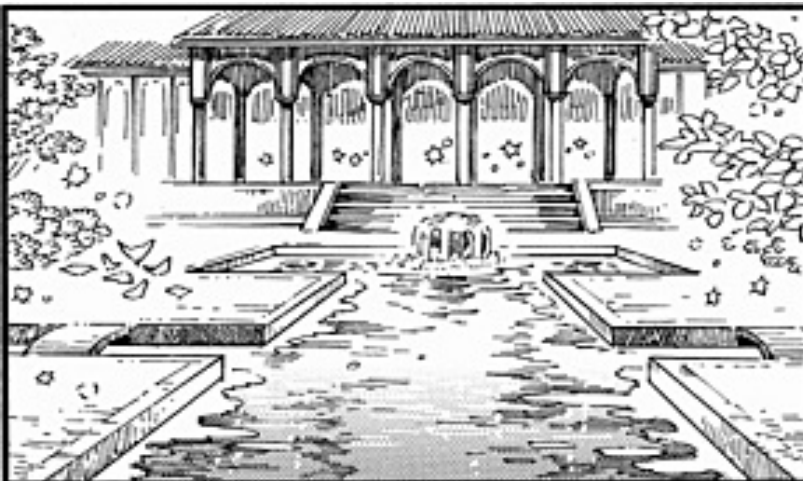
AND YOU'D
WELCOME
ALL KINDS OF
PEOPLE TO
COME AND
SPEND THE
NIGHT.

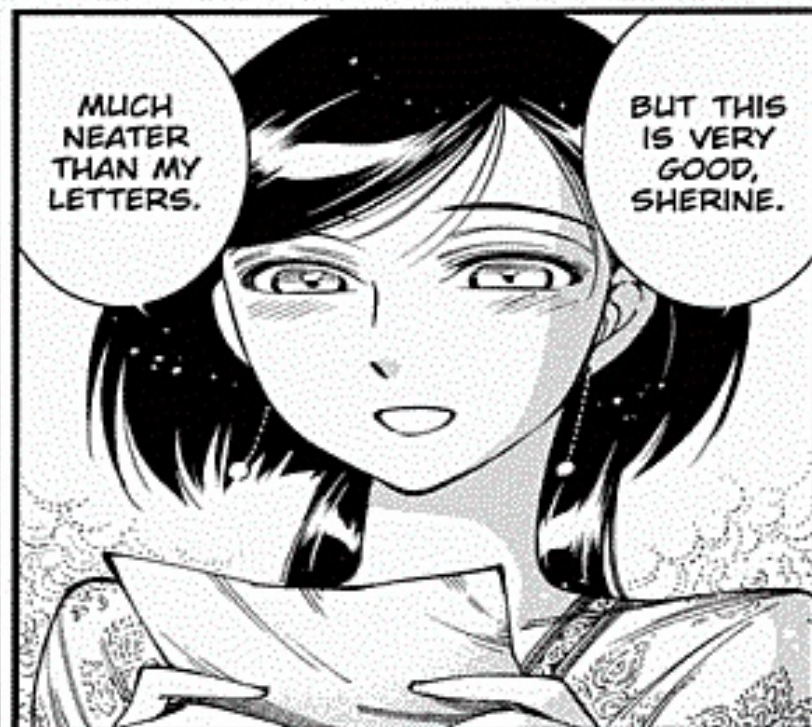
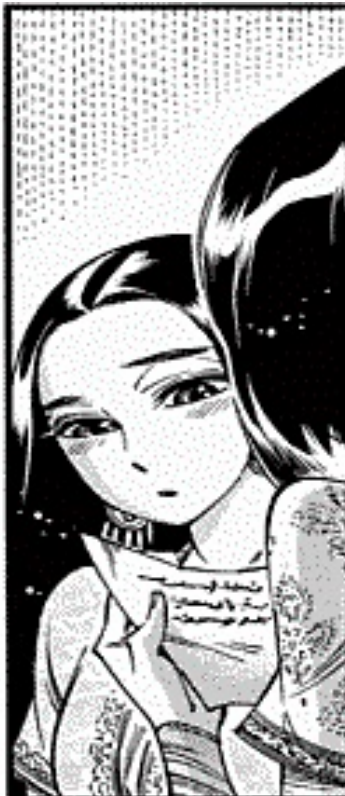


WELL,
THE HOUSE
WOULD
BE FIRST,
RIGHT?

YOU'D BUILD
KITCHENS
BOTH
INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE...









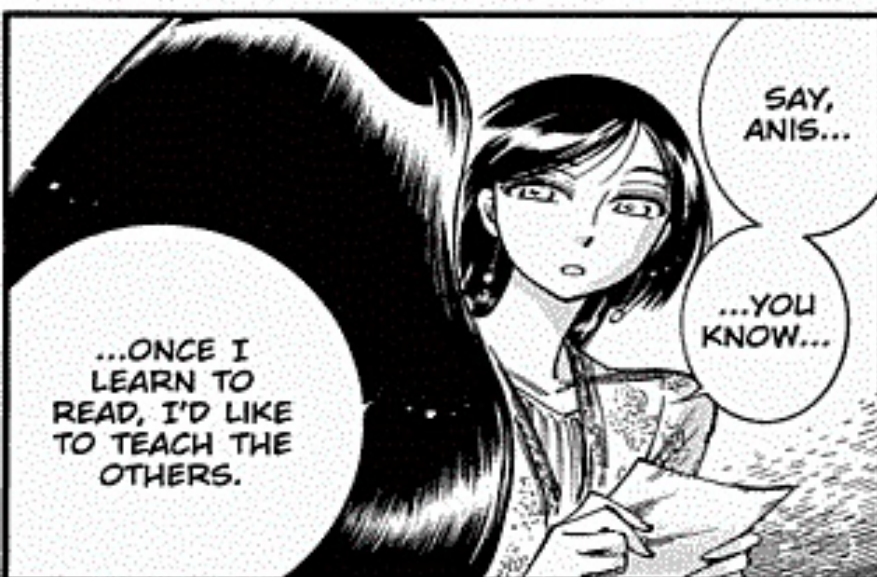
...SO HE
WENT OFF
WITH HIM.

...WAS
ANXIOUS TO
INTRODUCE
HIM TO SOME
GUESTS...

OUR
HUS-
BAND...

SHERINE,
WHERE IS
MAHFOUD?

OH
MY!



...ONCE I
LEARN TO
READ, I'D LIKE
TO TEACH THE
OTHERS.

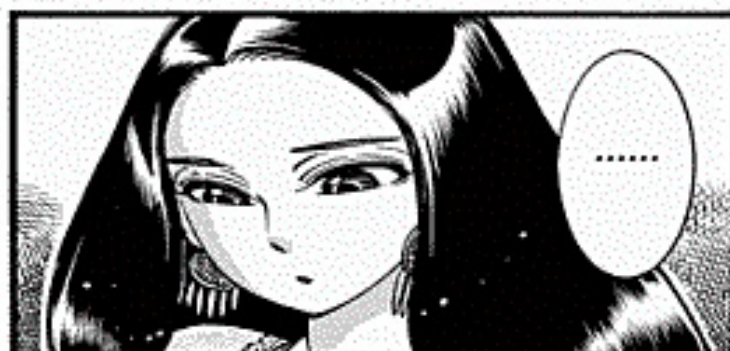
SAY,
ANIS...

...YOU
KNOW...



THANK
GOOD-
NESS.

I
SEE.



.....



LET'S
INVITE
THEM
OVER!

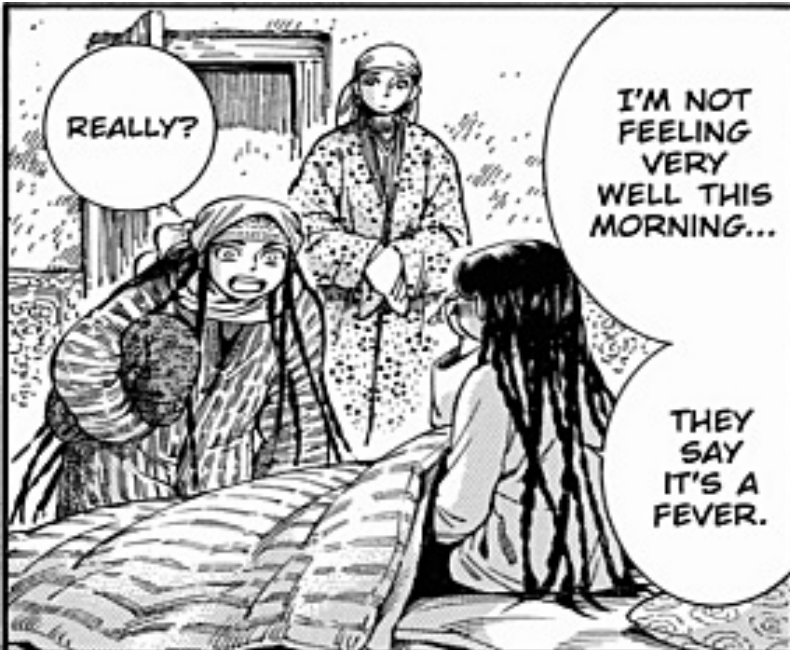
THAT'S
SO
SWEET!



I THINK
AT
LEAST...

...THEY'D
LIKE TO
WRITE
THEIR
NAMES.





REALLY?

I'M NOT
FEELING
VERY
WELL THIS
MORNING...

THEY
SAY
IT'S A
FEVER.



SORRY
ABOUT
THIS.

OHhh...
PARIYA...



KAMOLA,
ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

I DIDN'T
KNOW...



ONE HAS
MADE
PLANS WITH
OTHERS.



NO—
I MEAN,
THESE
THINGS
HAPPEN!

BUT I
PROMISED TO
SEW WITH YOU
TODAY. I'M
SORRY.

OH YES.
I'M SURE
IT'S JUST
A COLD.



YOU JUST
REST
TODAY,
PLEASE!

IT
ISN'T A
PROBLEM
FOR ME!

NOT
IN THE
SLIGHT-
EST!



NOT AT ALL!

I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED HER TO HELP!

PLEASE JUST TAKE CARE!



AFTER COMING ALL THE WAY HERE... I'M SO SORRY.



...WITH SOME FREE TIME.

... SOMETIMES, CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE ONE...

BUT EVEN SO...

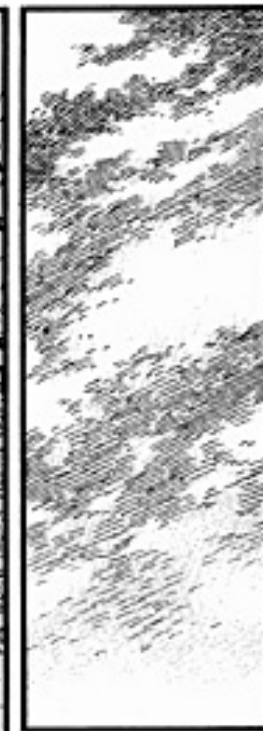




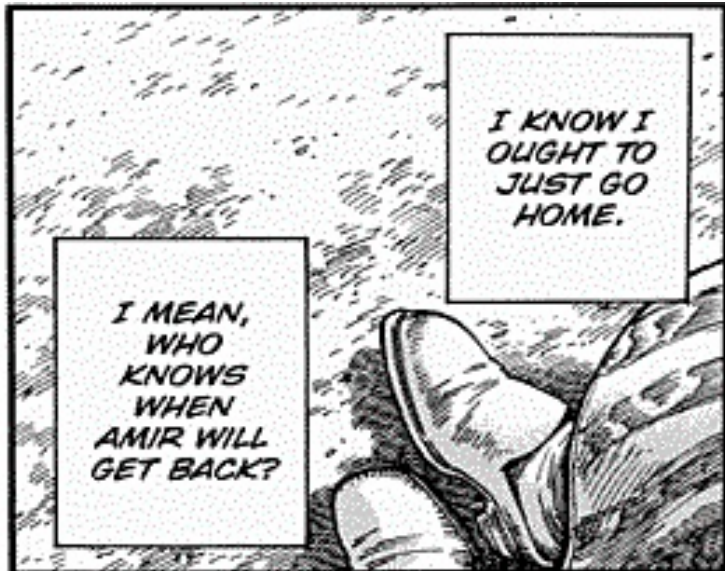
WHAT'LL
I DO.....?

◆
CHAPTER 79
SPARE TIME,
PART 2
◆









I KNOW I
OUGHT TO
JUST GO
HOME.

I MEAN,
WHO
KNOWS
WHEN
AMIR WILL
GET BACK?

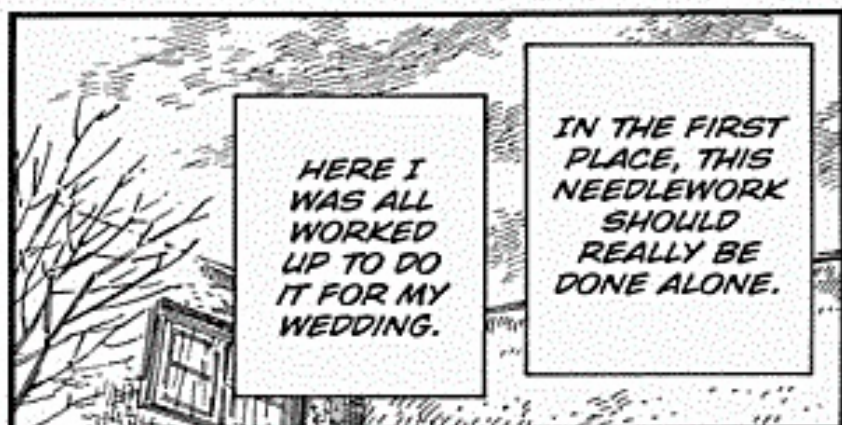


I'M
ALWAYS
IN MY
HEAD...

NEVER
GETTING
ANYTHING
DONE...

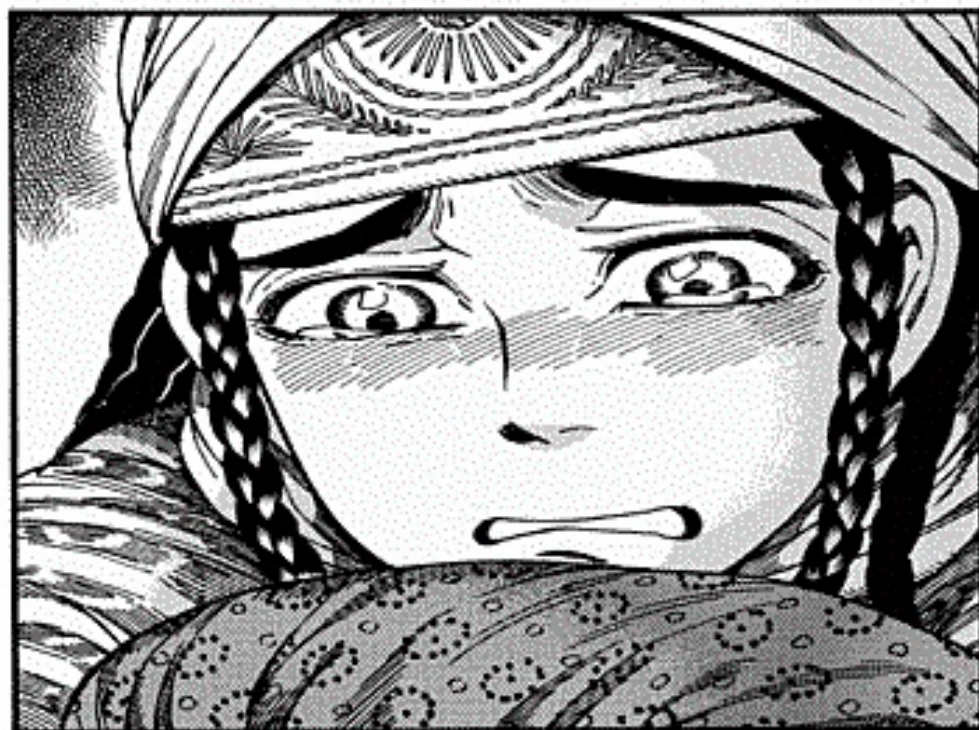


IT'S
ALWAYS
LIKE
THIS
WITH
ME.

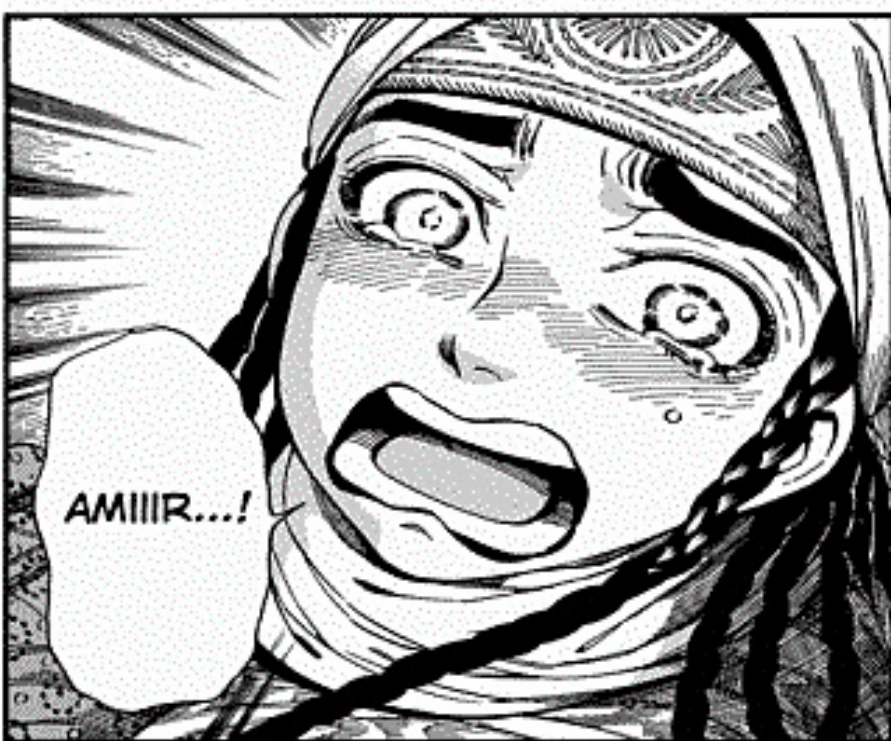


HERE I
WAS ALL
WORKED
UP TO DO
IT FOR MY
WEDDING.

IN THE FIRST
PLACE, THIS
NEEDLEWORK
SHOULD
REALLY BE
DONE ALONE.



ALWAYS
THINKING,
NEVER
DOING...





I WAS
ALL
ALONE
TOO.

I WAS
ACTUALLY
HOPING
YOU WOULD
COME BY.



WHAT?

YOU
CALLED
OUT?

I'M SO
SORRY! I
MUST'VE
DOZED
OFF.

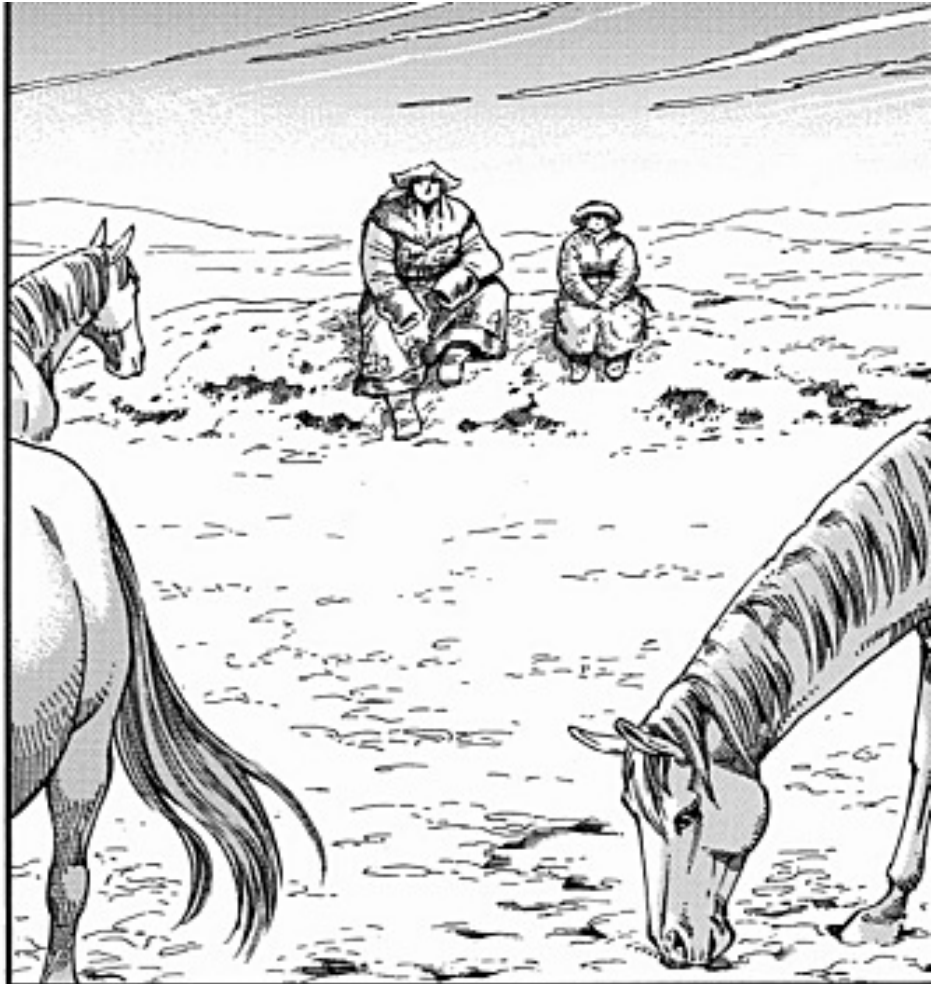


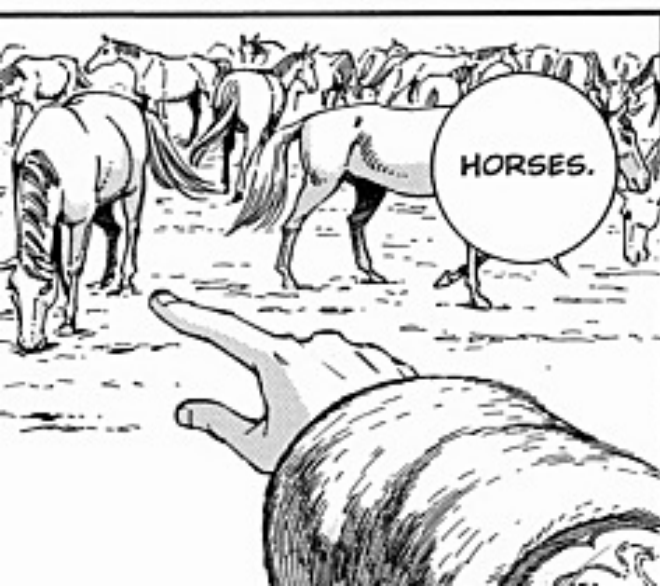
HURRY
AND GET
UNDER
THE KORSI
BLANKETS.

IT'S
SO COLD
OUT.

I'LL
GO PUT
ON SOME
TEA.









SOME ARE OVERLY SENSITIVE TO NOISES OR UNEXPECTED OBJECTS, AND THEY ARE CAREFUL WHEN RUNNING.



SOME GET OVEREXCITED AND DON'T HEED THEIR RIDERS.



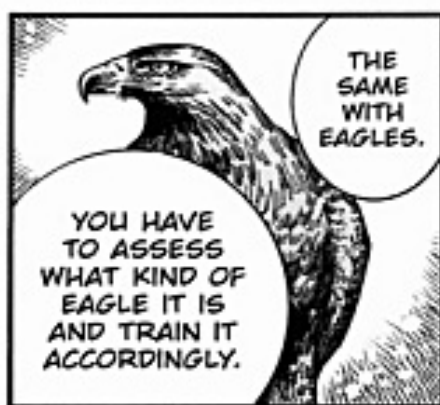
SOME SEEM EASYGOING AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT ONCE THEY START RUNNING, THEY WON'T STOP.



EACH HORSE HAS DIFFERENT ABILITIES.



IT DOESN'T WORK IN REVERSE.



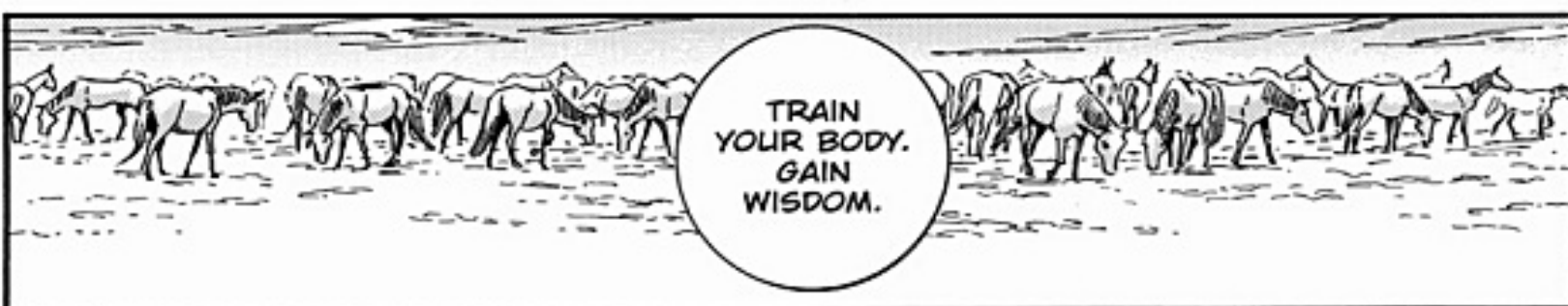
THE SAME WITH EAGLES.

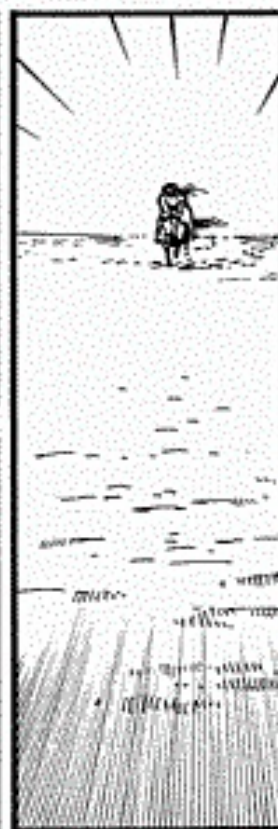
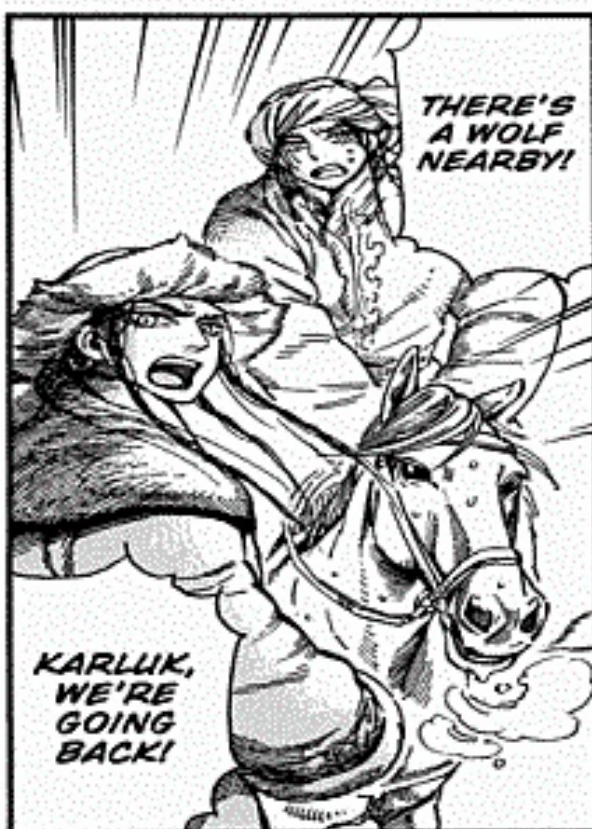
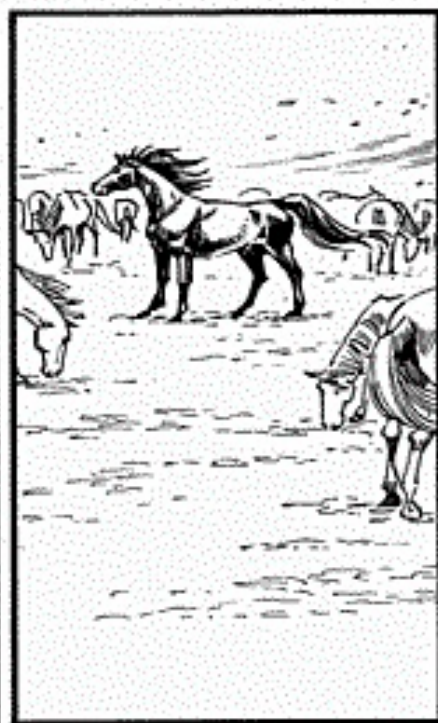
YOU HAVE TO ASSESS WHAT KIND OF EAGLE IT IS AND TRAIN IT ACCORDINGLY.

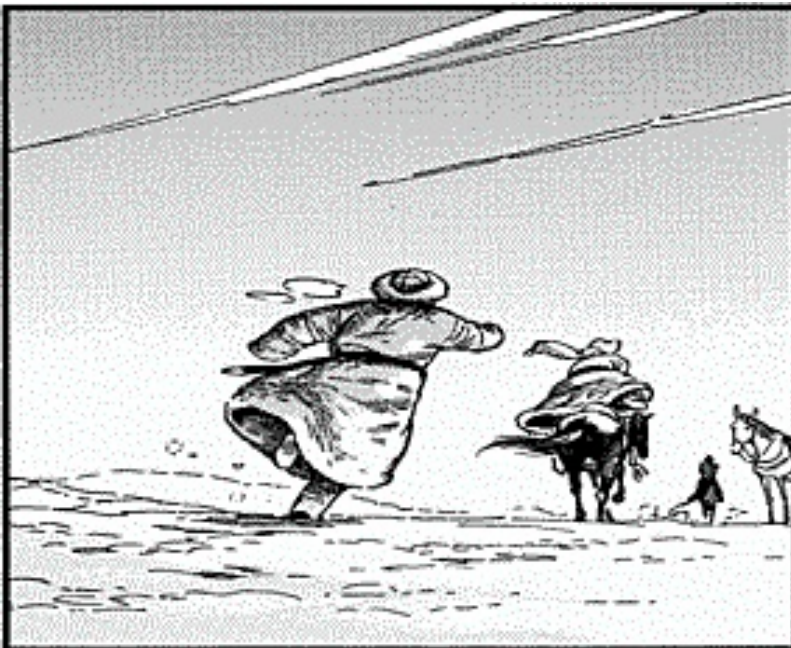


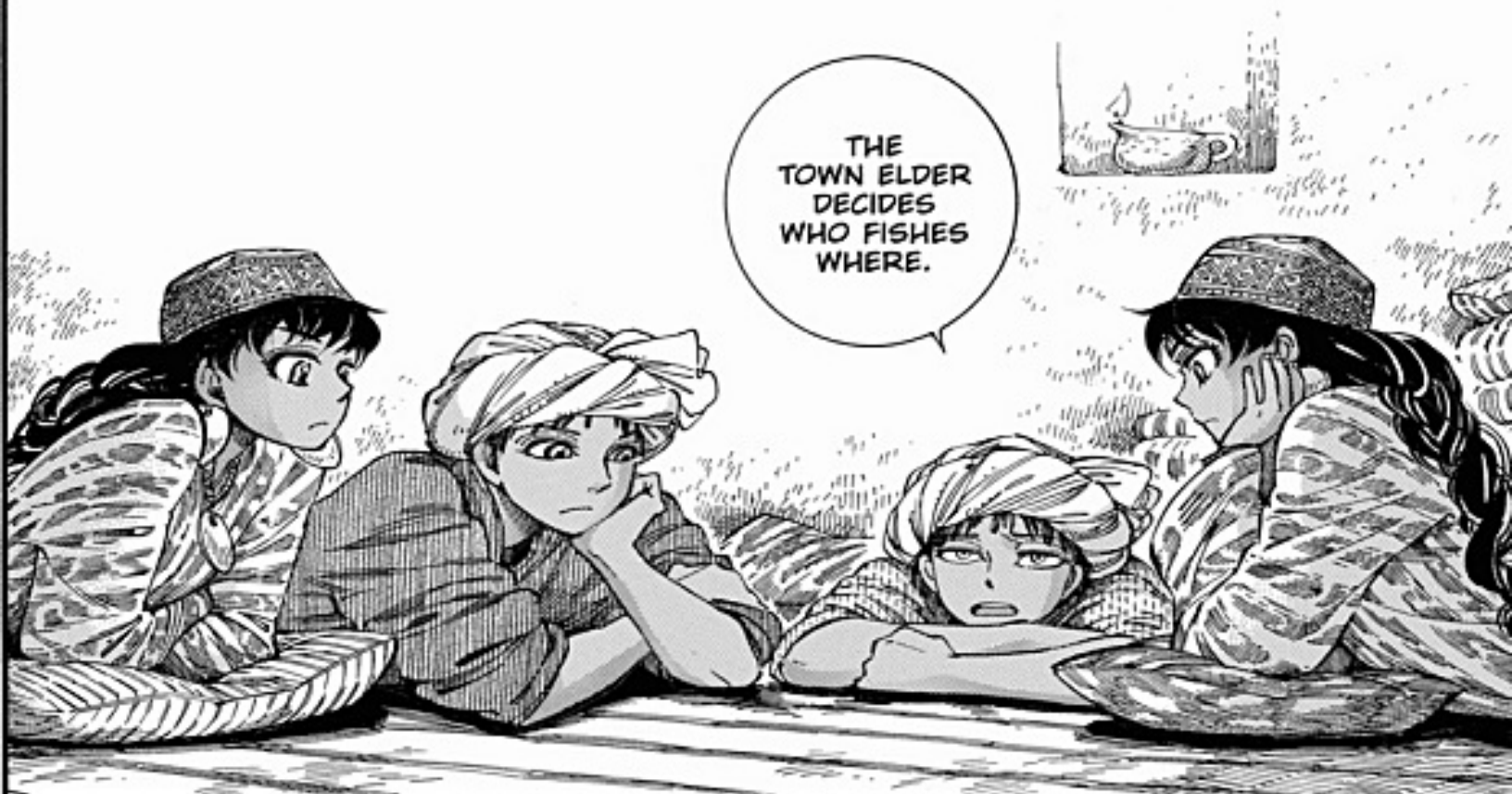
THEY EACH REQUIRE DIFFERENT METHODS FOR TRAINING...

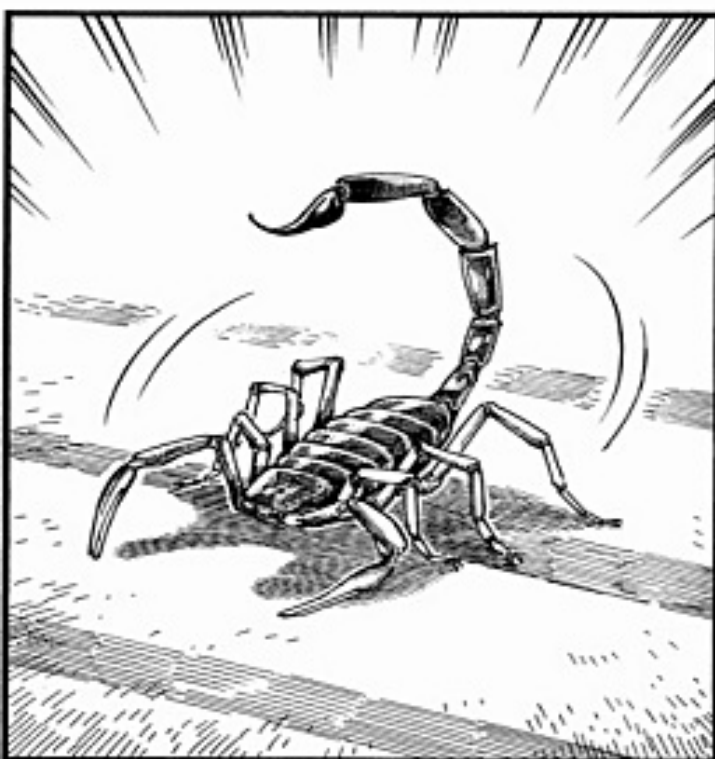
...AND DIFFERENT METHODS FOR RIDING.





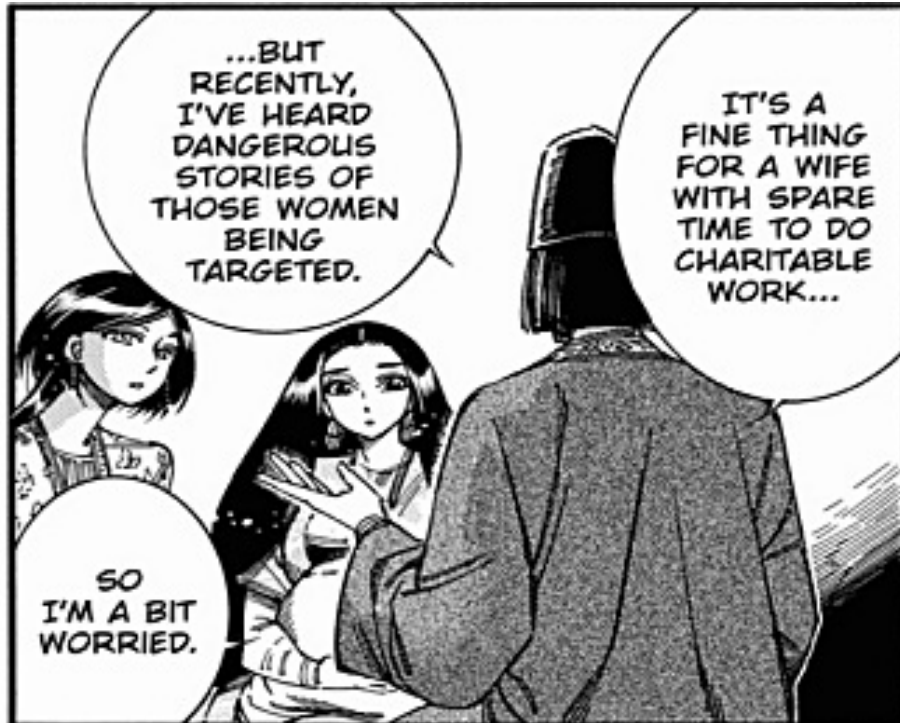












...BUT
RECENTLY,
I'VE HEARD
DANGEROUS
STORIES OF
THOSE WOMEN
BEING
TARGETED.

IT'S A
FINE THING
FOR A WIFE
WITH SPARE
TIME TO DO
CHARITABLE
WORK...

SO
I'M A BIT
WORRIED.



.....



EVERYONE
GOES THERE
ALREADY...

...AND
IT'S
WOMEN
ONLY.

THERE'S
A PUBLIC
ROOM AT
THE BATHS
WHERE
WE COULD
TEACH.



.....

WHAT
ABOUT
AT THE
BATHS?

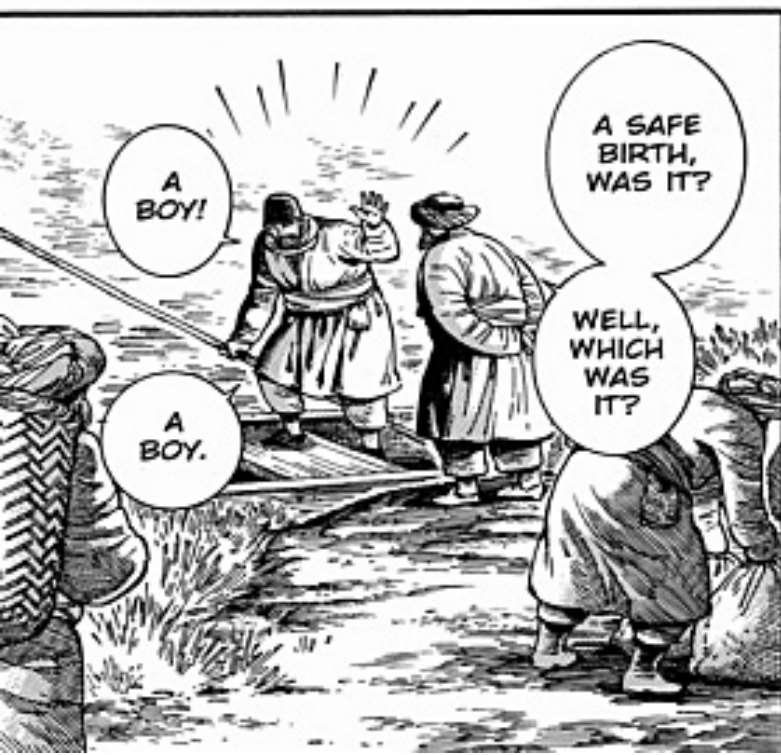


...OH,
I SEE.



RIGHT?

THAT
MIGHT
DO.





THEY ARE
TRULY
NOTHING.

BUT MY
GRAND-
CHILD
LIKES
THEM.

.....



JUST
PASSING
THE
TIME.



WOODEN
FIGURES?

YOU'RE
VERY
GOOD.



ALL
RIGHT.
WHO GOES
FIRST?

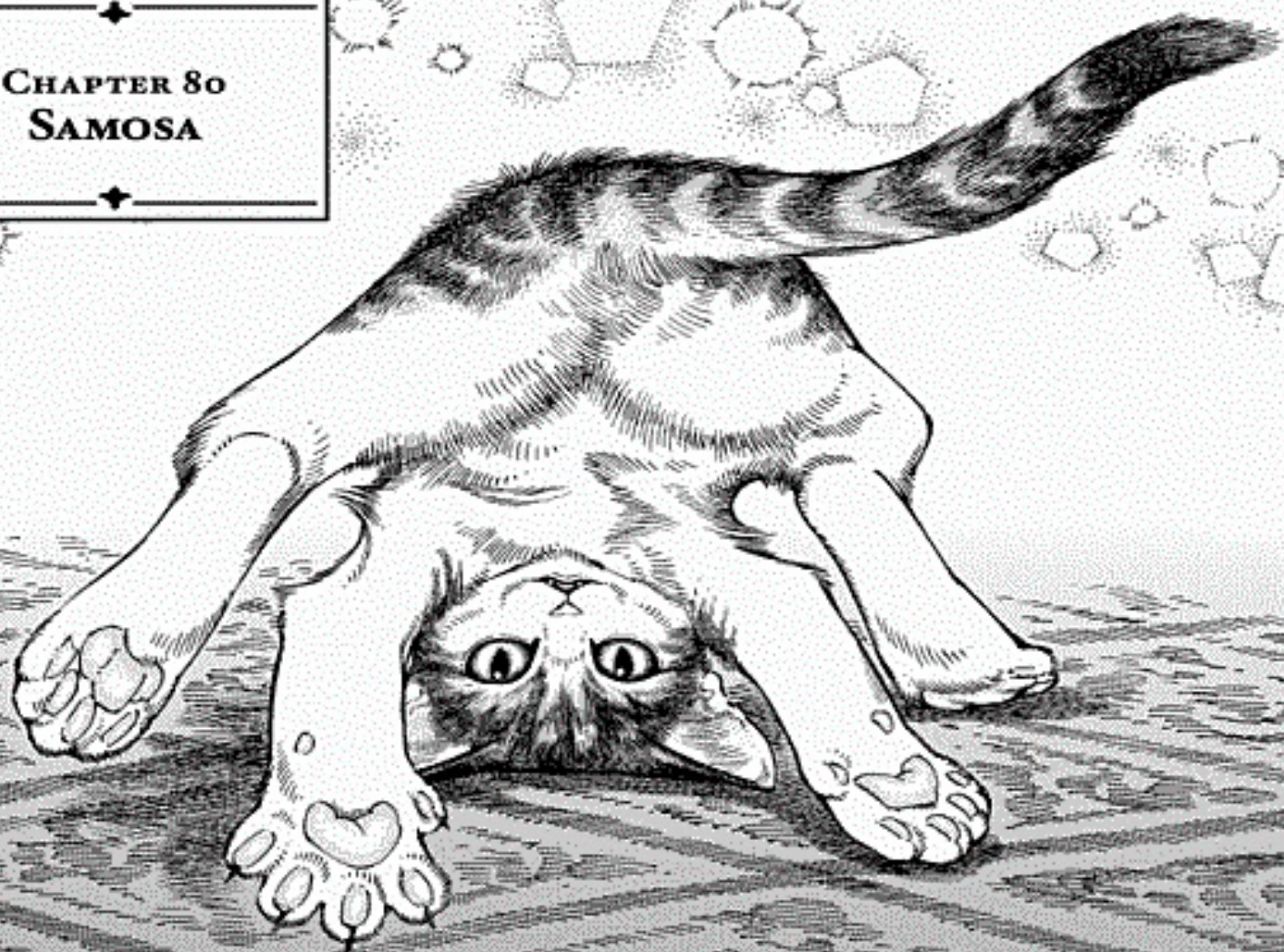
...BUT
THEN
THINGS
GET
MOVING
ONCE
AGAIN.

FREE
TIME CAN
COME...



◆ CHAPTER 79: END ◆

CHAPTER 80
SAMOSA



...PUSHING
THINGS
OVER...

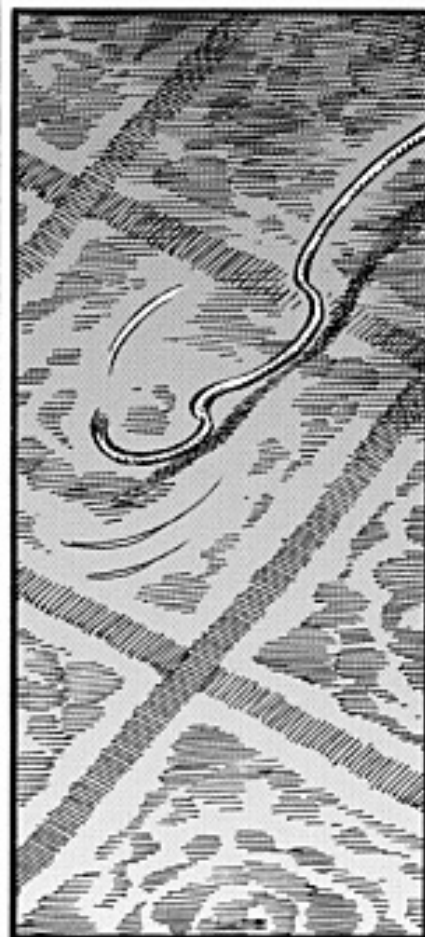
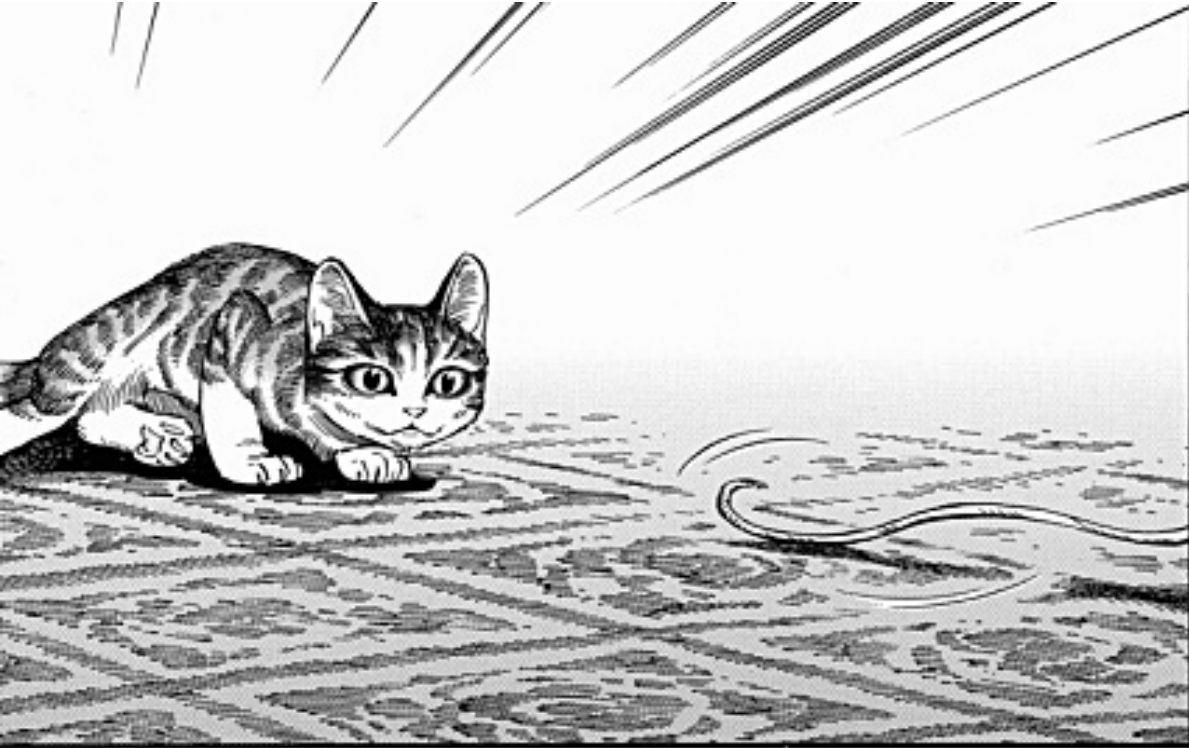
RAMPAG-
ING ALL
THROUGH
THE
HOUSE...

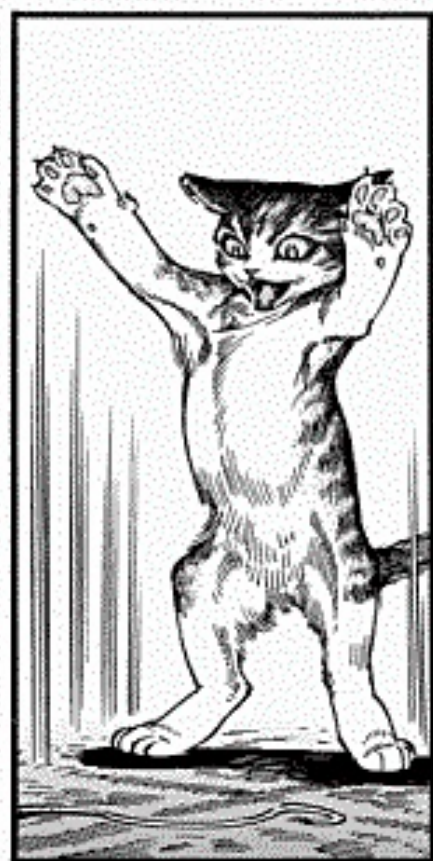
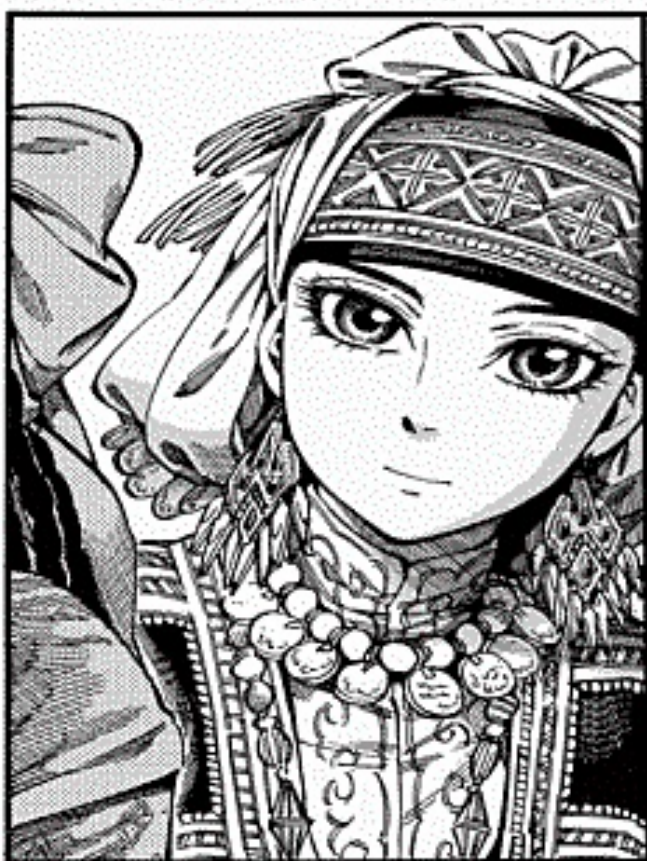
HE'S
SUCH A
HANDFUL.

HONESTLY,
HE CAN
NEVER JUST
BE STILL.

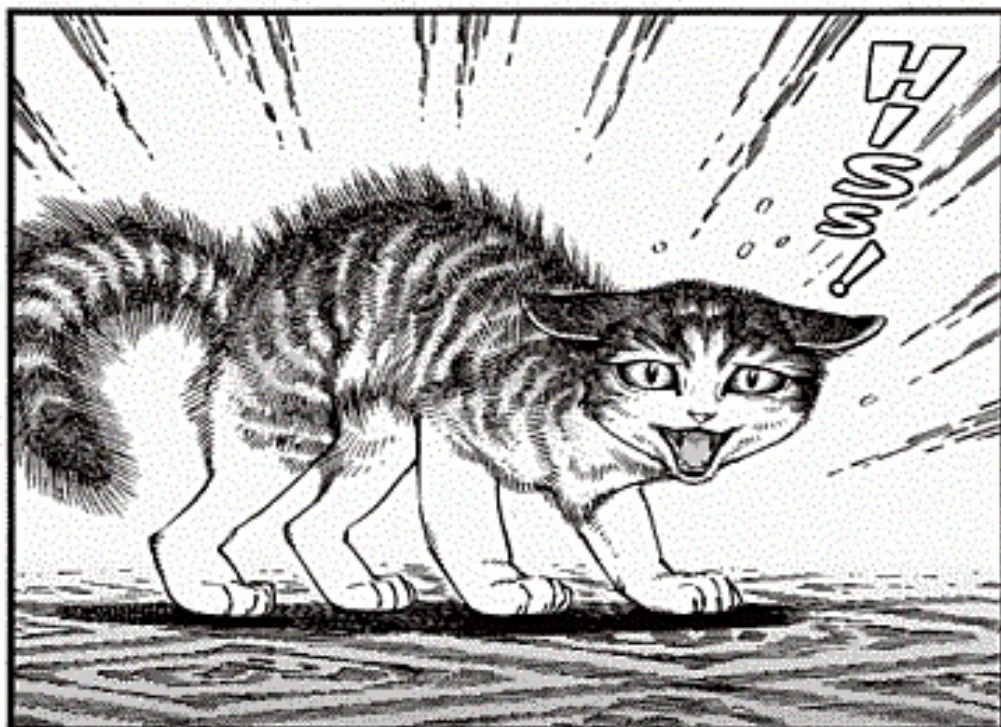
EVERY
DAY, I HAVE
TO FOLLOW
HIM AROUND,
CLEANING UP
AFTER HIM.

EARLIER, HE
WAS TEARING
AROUND
COVERED
HEAD TO
TAIL IN
FLOUR.











AND NEXT
TIME, I'LL
BAKE SOME
CAKES
AND BRING
THEM!

I'LL
COME
AGAIN!

OKAY.



THERE IS
NOTHING SCARY
ABOUT AMIR!



...TO BE
A GOOD
KITTY
DURING
THE
VISIT!?

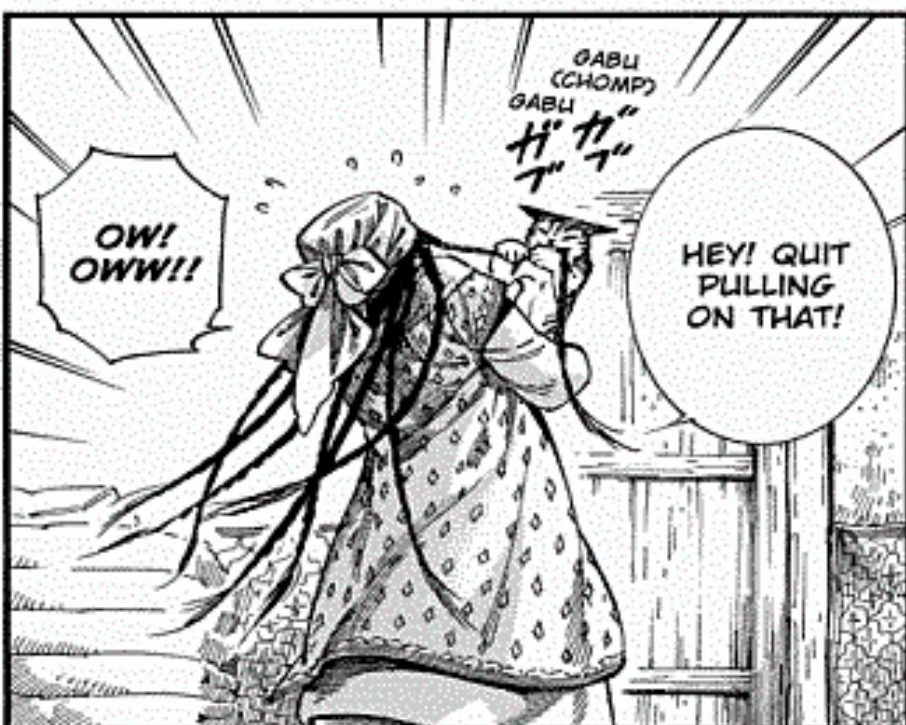
DIDN'T
I TELL
YOU...



DON'T
YOU
DARE
HISS AT
AMIR!

C'MON,
SAMOSA
!!





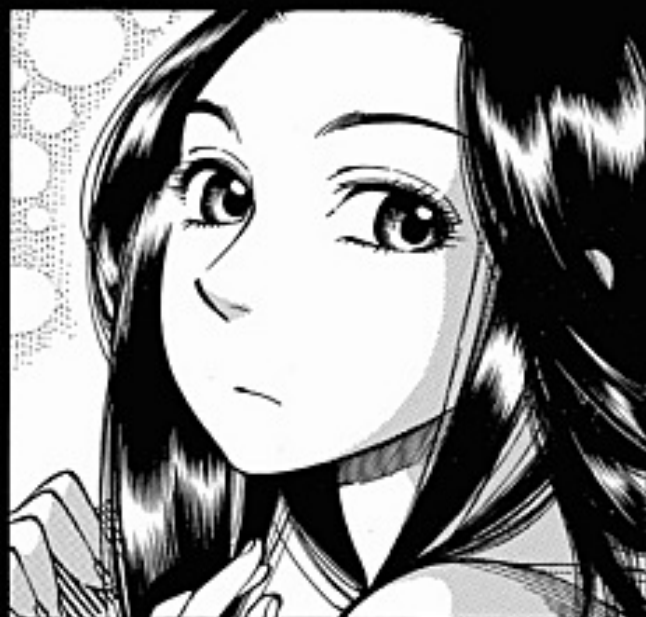


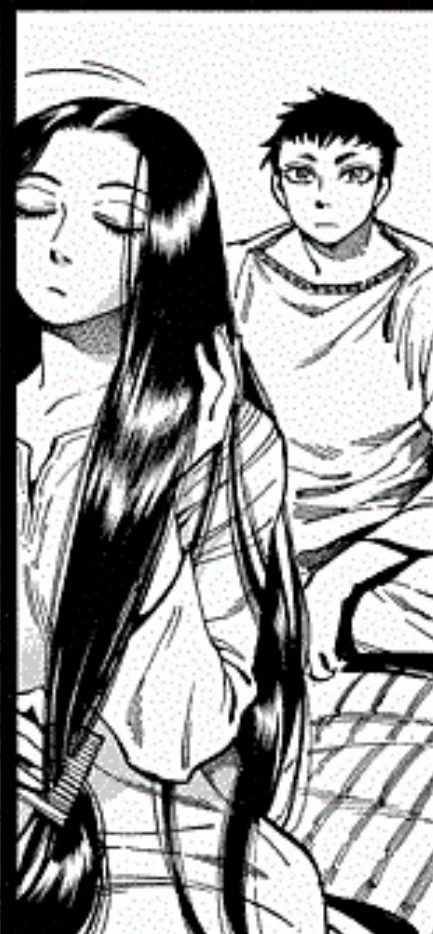
IT IS
SAID
THAT
ALLAH...

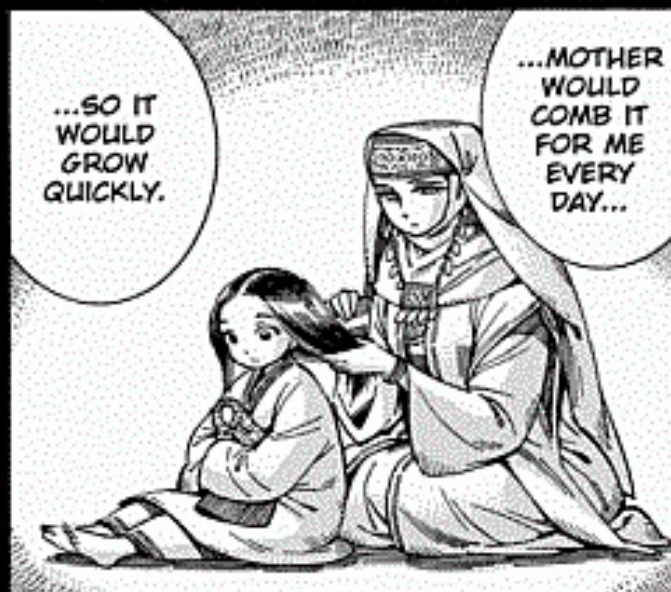
...ORDERED
WOMEN TO
CONCEAL
THEIR
BEAUTY.

◆
CHAPTER 81
HAIR
◆

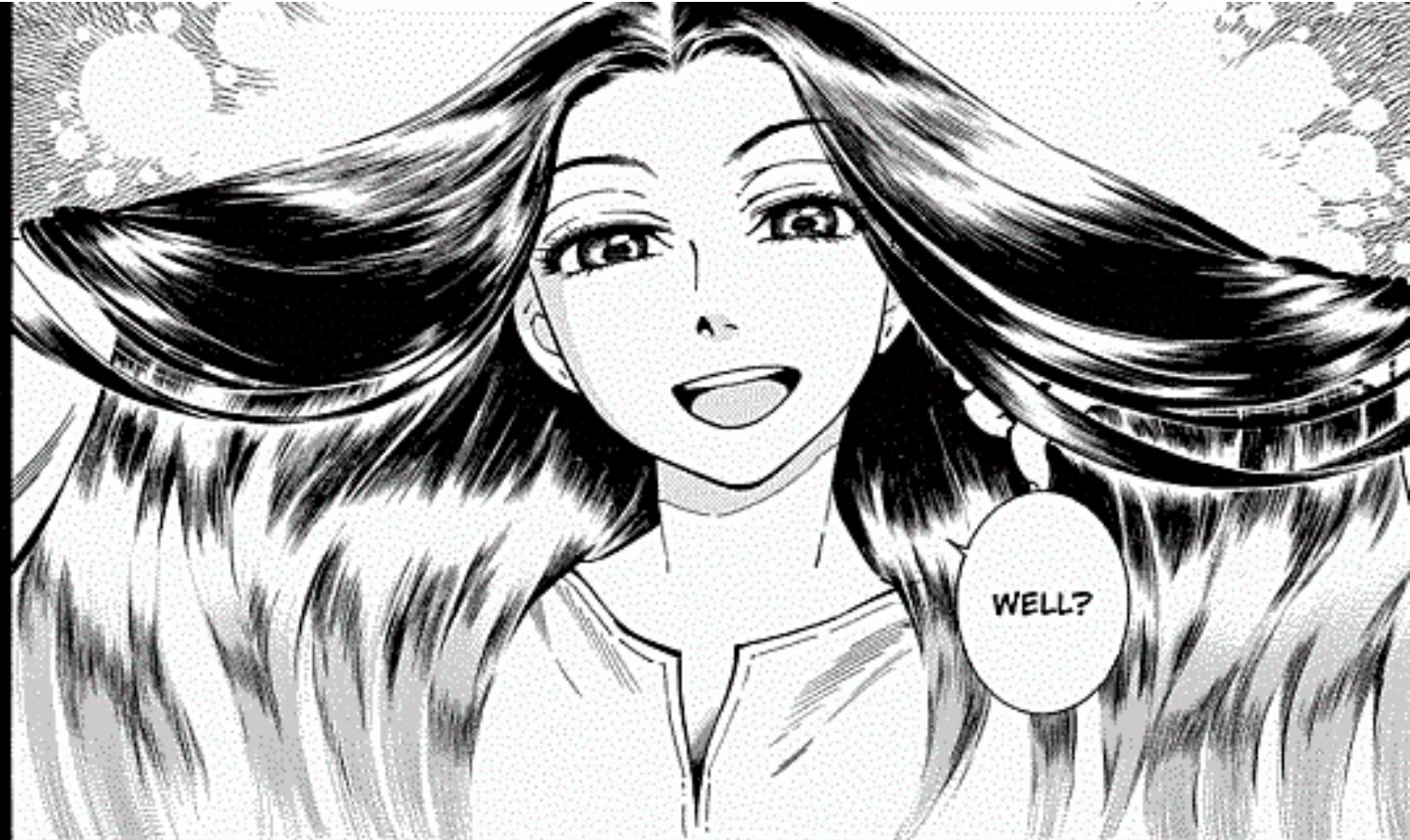














BA
(CWSH)



MOMMY!



MOMMY
...?



ROS-
TEM!

WHAT'S
WRONG?



OH, WHAT
AM I GOING
TO DO WITH
YOU? WAIT A
MINUTE.



YOU
HAVE
TO
PEE?

I
GOTTA
PEE!

ROSTEM!
YOU DIDN'T
GO TO THE
BATHROOM
BEFORE
YOU WENT
TO BED!?



HE
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO GO
ALONE.

OH,
COME
ON. IT'S
JUST THE
BATH-
ROOM.



WHAT
WOULD WE
DO IF HE
FELL IN?!

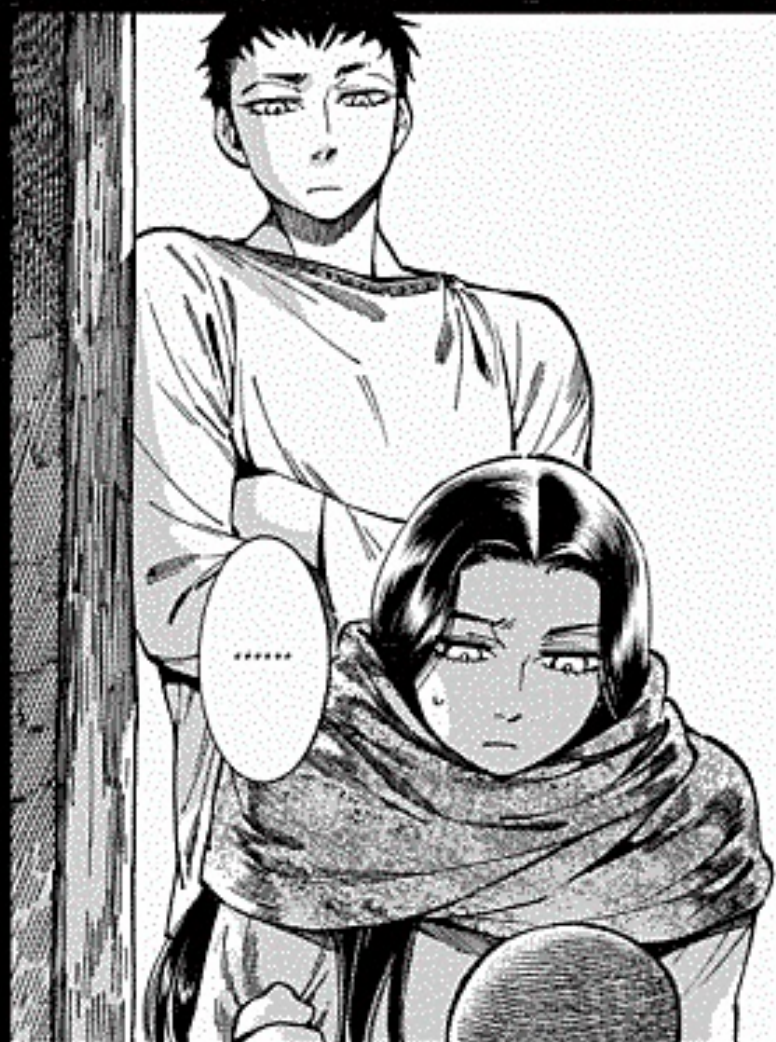


IT'S
DARK AS
PITCH
OUTSIDE!

HOW CAN
HE GO
WITHOUT
A LIGHT?



CAREFUL
WHERE
YOU
STEP!



.....



NOW
GO BACK
AND
SLEEP.

GOOD.
WE'RE
ALL
DONE.

ARE
YOU
FIN-
ISHED
?



...WITH
MOMMY!

I
WANNA
SLEEP...



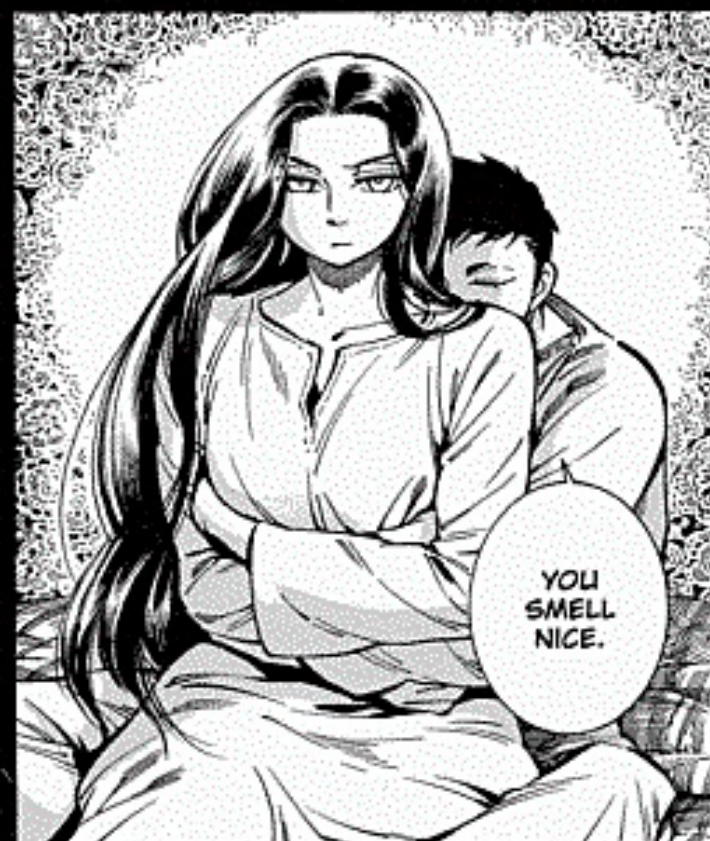


YOU CAN'T
SAY THINGS
LIKE THAT
TO THE
CHILDREN!

WHAT'S
WRONG?
DON'T BE
MAD.



TSUNJUN
CHARRUNSHO

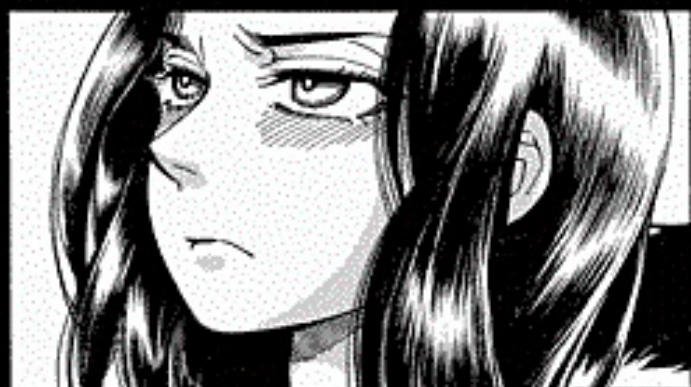


YOU
SMELL
NICE.



OKAY.
I
WON'T.

DON'T
STAY
ANGRY,
SELEKE.





ROSE
WATER
TOO?

ROSE
WATER
TOO.



I SHOULD
GET
YOU SOME
MORE.



IS IT THAT
SCENTED
OIL I GOT
YOU A WHILE
BACK?



.....

THAT RAN
OUT AGES
AGO.



IT
ISN'T LIKE I
WANT US TO
ARGUE.



ズルル
ズルル
ズルル

ZURURU
(SLINDO)



I REALLY
DON'T WANT
TO COMPLAIN
ALL THE
TIME.

YOU AND
I...

...I WANT
US TO KEEP
GETTING
ALONG FOR A
LONG WHILE.



ME
TOO.

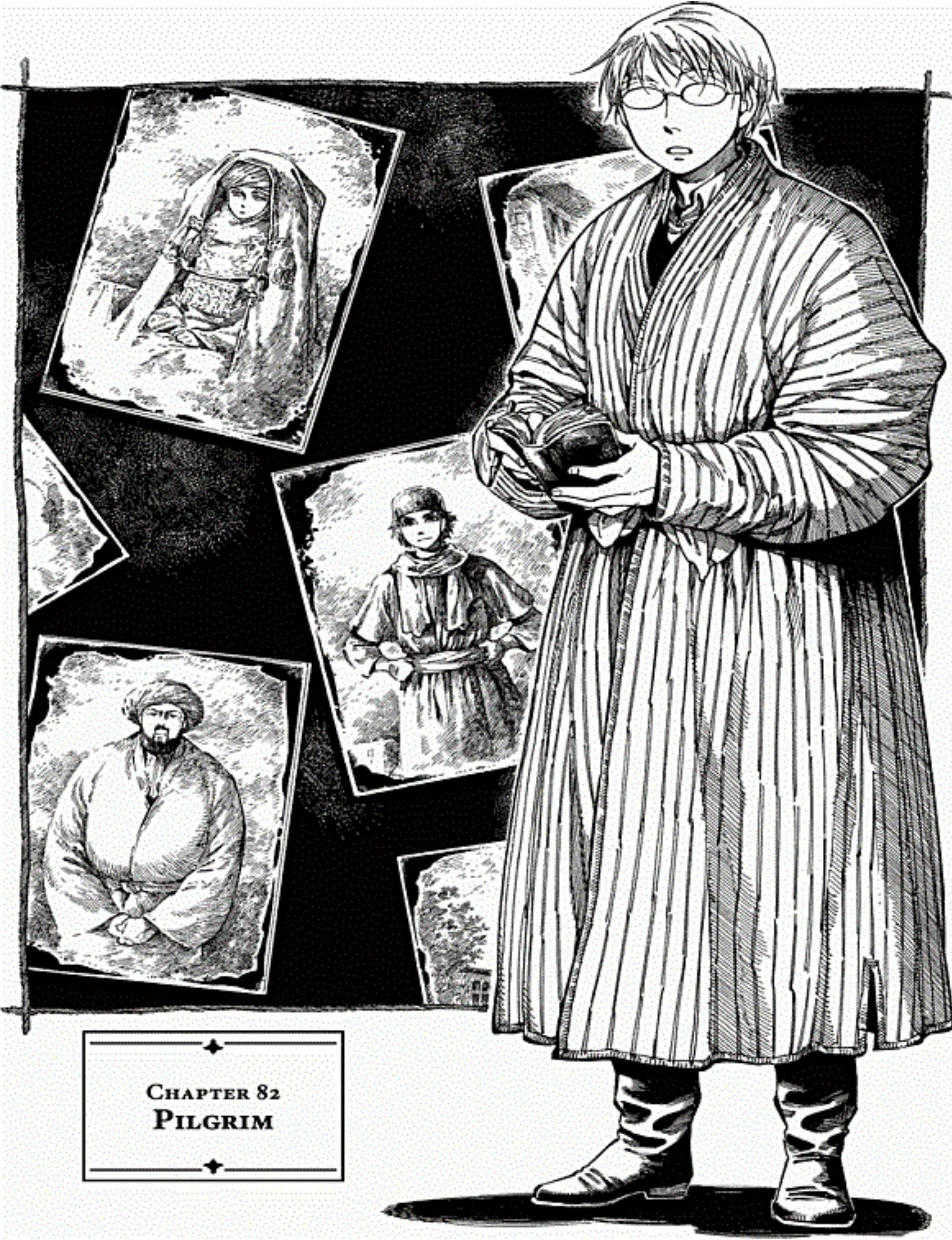




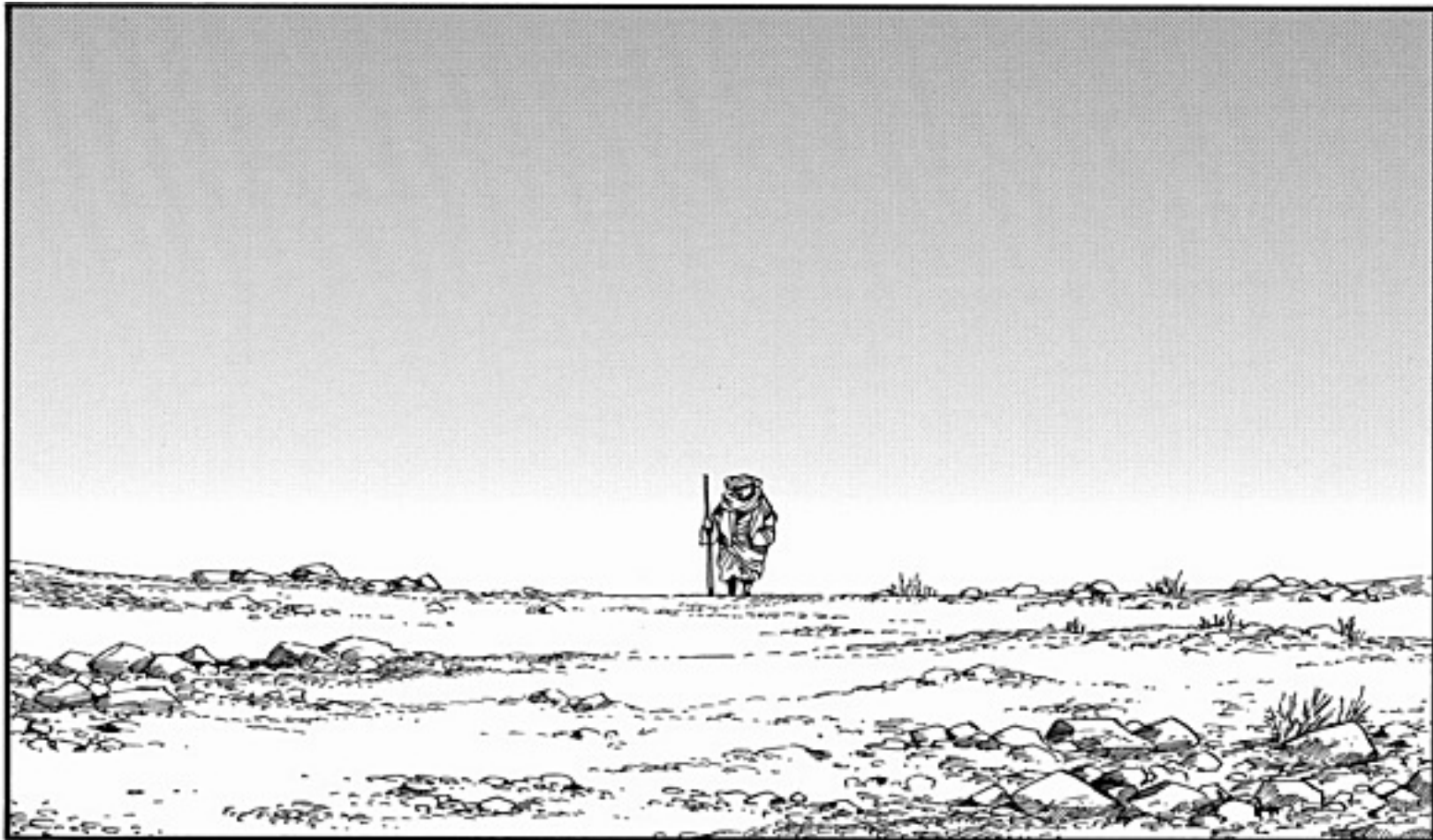






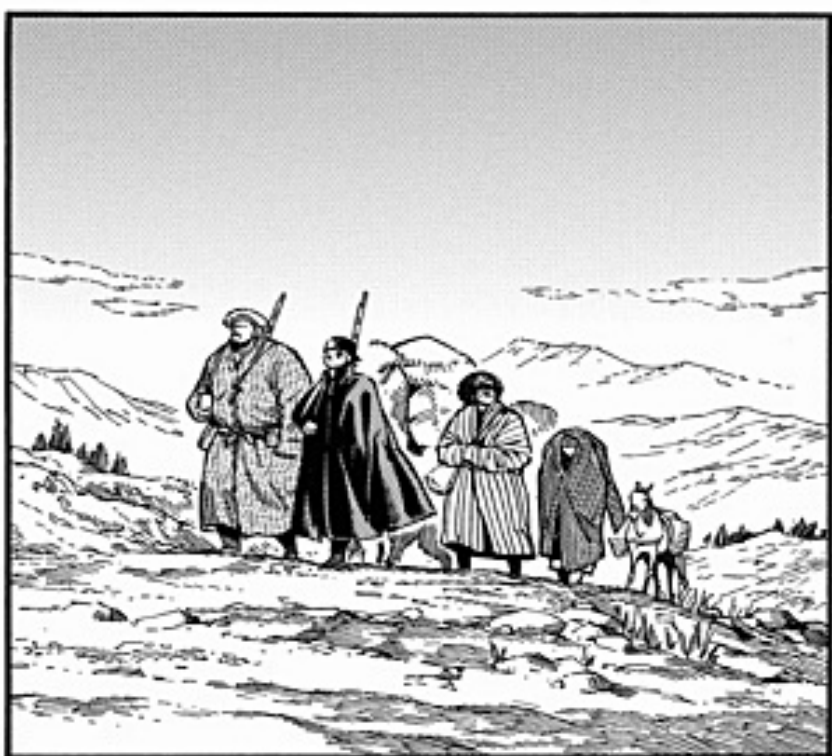


CHAPTER 82
PILGRIM

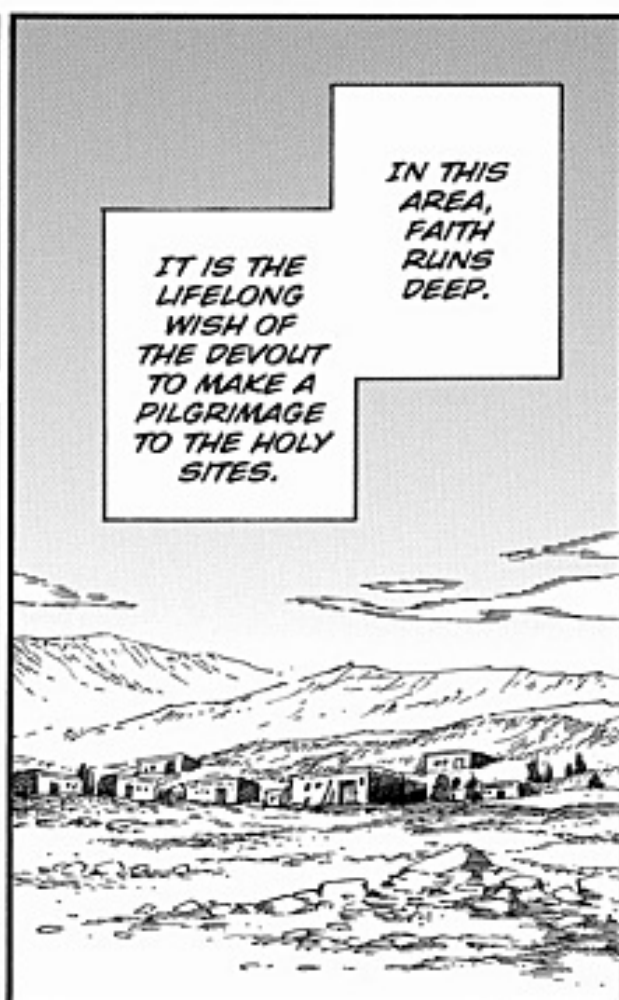


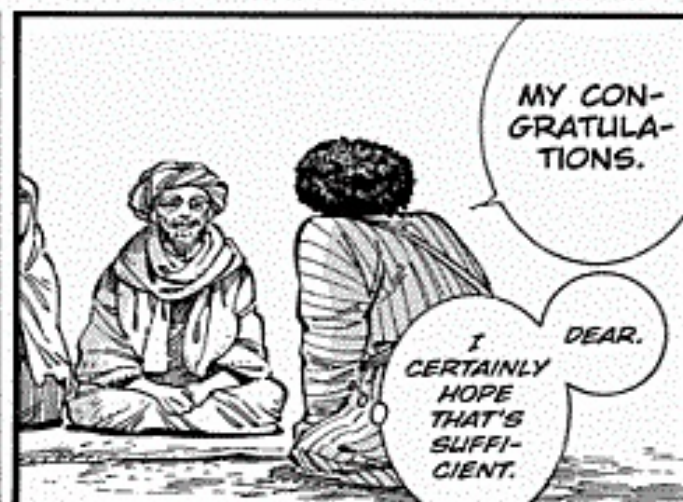
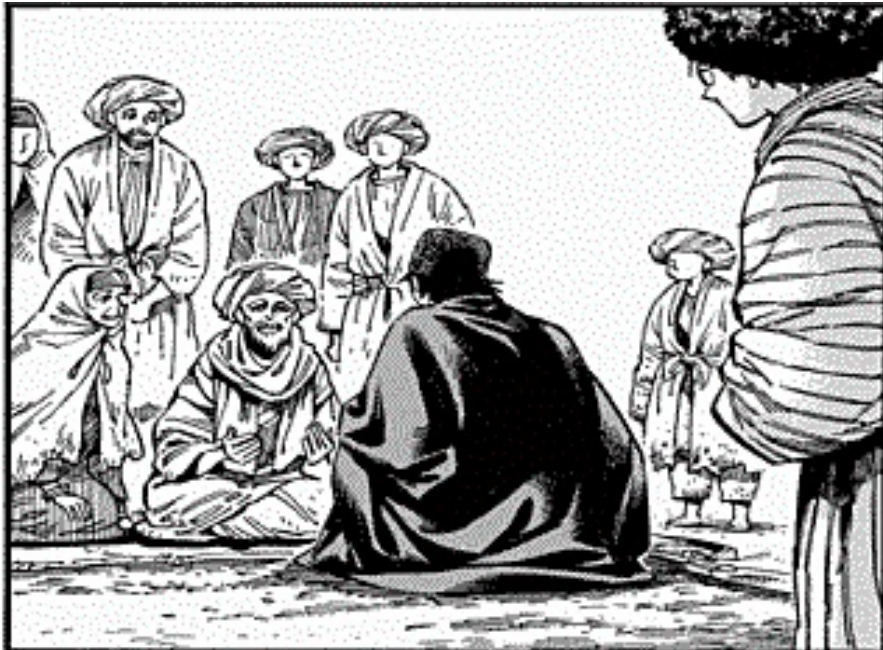
AND, ONCE
FULFILLED,
THE JOY
OF HIS
RETURN.

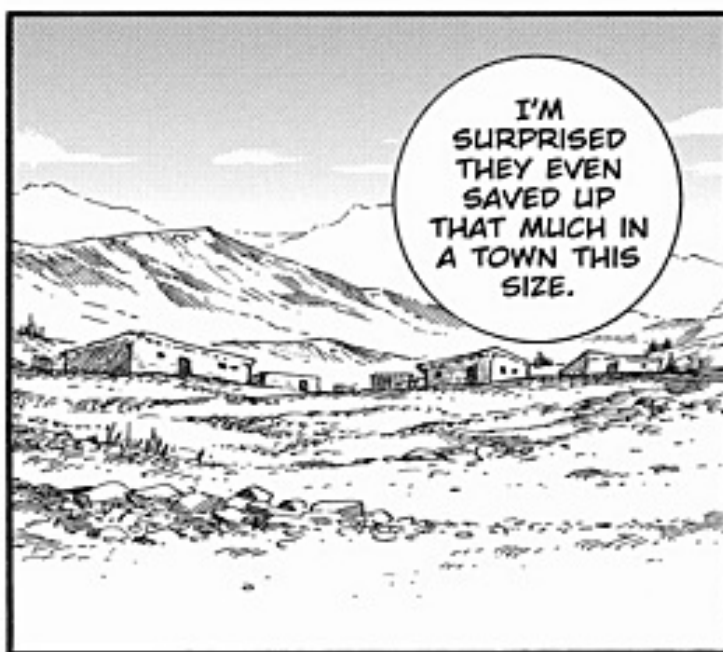
SOMEONE
WITH A
LIFELONG
WISH.



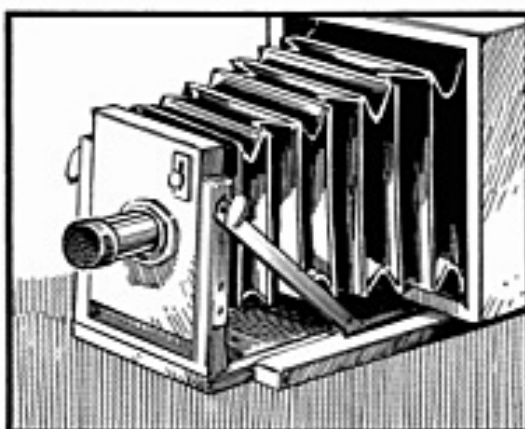
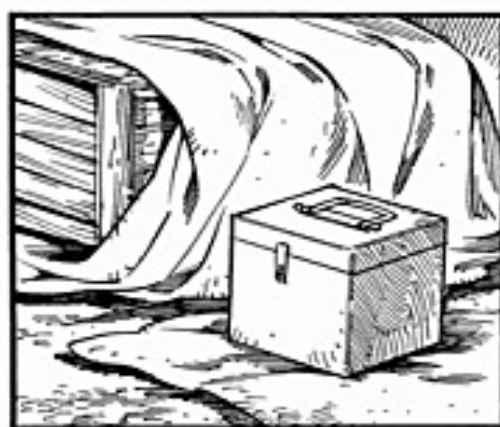
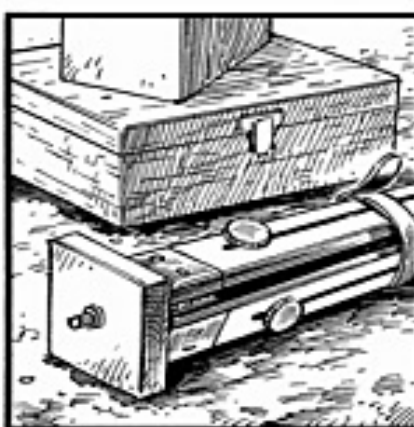
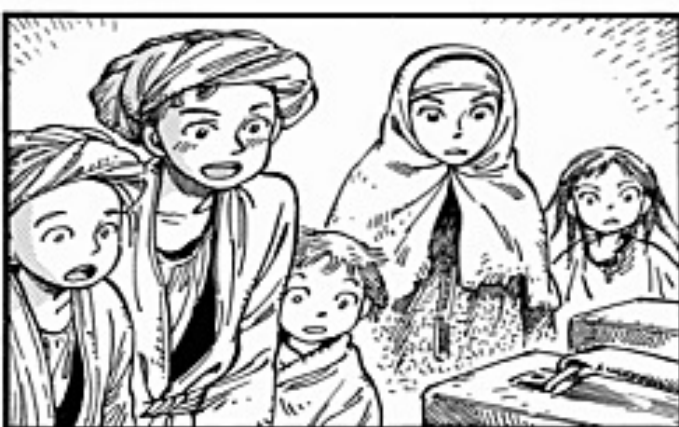




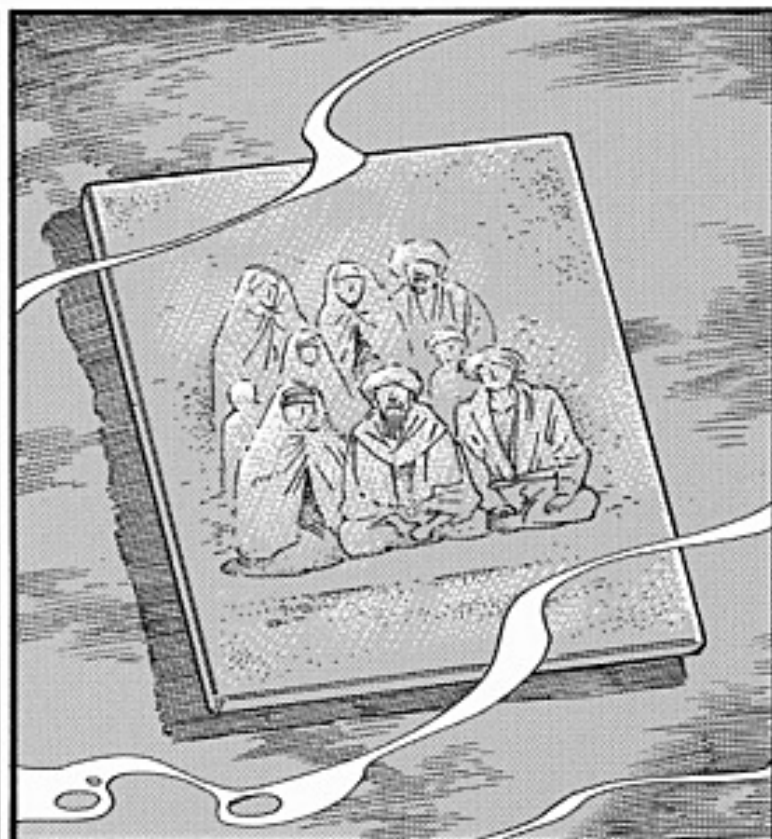




















IT'S QUITE
VALLUABLE,
ISN'T IT?

IF SO, THEN IT
IS BETTER YOU
CARRY IT, MR.
SMITH.



WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
NIKOLOVSKY?

I MUST
DECLINE AS
WELL.



WHAT IS
THE TOWN...
WHERE
YOU'RE
HEADED?

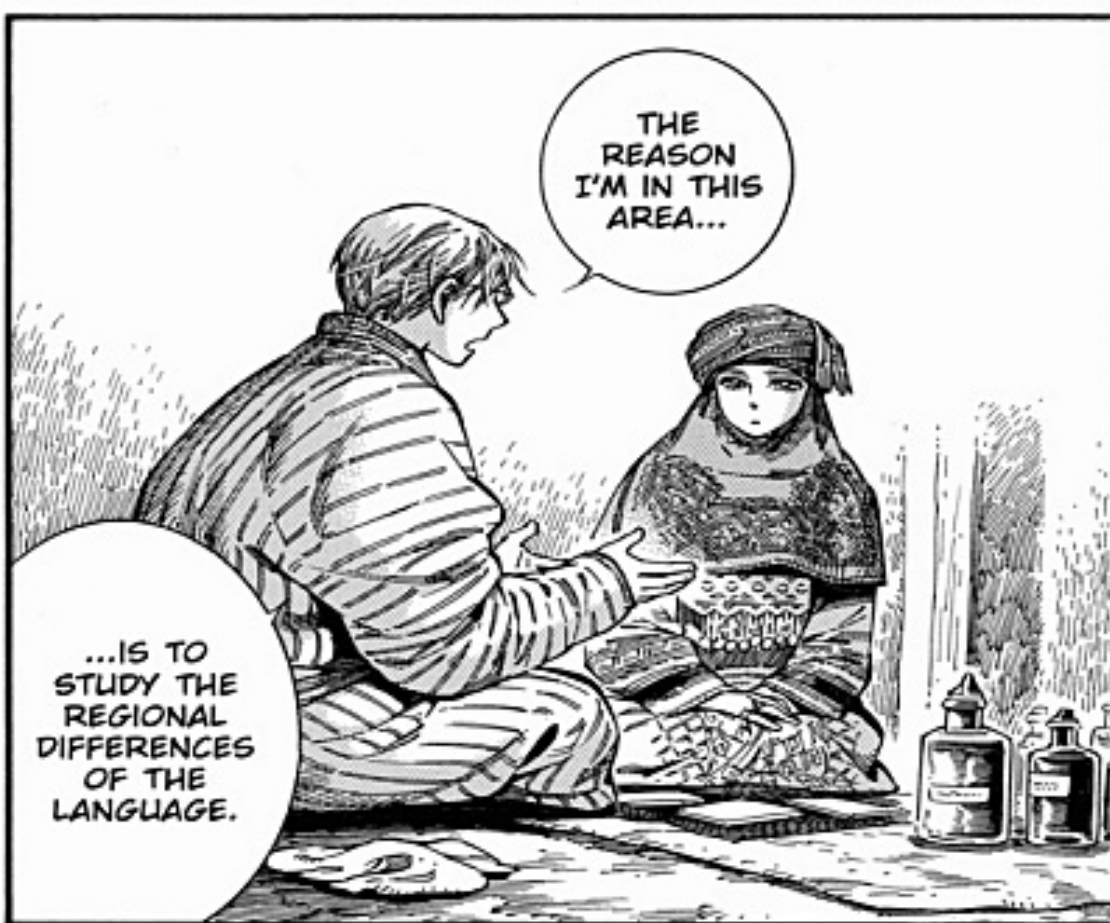
YOU'RE
TRAVELING
TO TAKE
PHOTOS,
AREN'T
YOU?



IN THE
END, I
COULDN'T
GIVE THEM
AWAY...

...TO
EITHER
OF
THEM.







THAT
FOUNDATION
IS WHAT
WE CALL
CULTURE.



AND TO
KNOW THE
REGION,
ONE MUST
KNOW THE
LANGUAGE.

IF ONE
KNOWS
THE
CULTURE,
THEN ONE
KNOWS
THE
REGION.



BUT
THERE IS NO
BETTER BASIS
FOR THIS
RESEARCH.

OF COURSE,
THERE ARE
INNUMERABLE
INFLUENCES
THAT AFFECT A
LANGUAGE, SO
IT'S IN NO WAY
AN ABSOLUTE.



AS LONG
AS PEOPLE
THINK IN A
LANGUAGE...

...THAT
LANGUAGE WILL
SHOW THE
UNIQUE FEATURES
OF ITS SPEAKERS
THROUGH HOW IT
IS USED...

...AND THOSE
FEATURES WILL
BECOME THE
FOUNDATION OF
THE REGION.



NO.

...A
PERSON'S
LANGUAGE
REVEALS
THEIR
CHARAC-
TER?

I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND
MOST OF
IT.



I'M SORRY,
THIS
DISCUSSION
HAS TAKEN
AN ODD
TURN...

AH!

UM...







...BUT IF
YOU TAKE THE
LONG VIEW,
IT IS THE
HISTORY OF
ALL PEOPLES
AS WELL.

OF COURSE,
THE HISTORY
OF A REGION
BELONGS TO THE
PEOPLE WHO
LIVE THERE...



BUT
WHAT I
WONDER
IS WHY.

WHY
DID YOU
CHOOSE
HERE?



...BUT I
THINK IT
MAKES
SENSE.

I CANNOT
SAY I
UNDERSTOOD
EVERYTHING
YOU WERE
SAYING...



...MANY
OF MY EX-
PERIENCES
HAVE BEEN
QUITE EN-
JOYABLE.

I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
BE JUST
ENJOYING
THIS
JOURNEY.

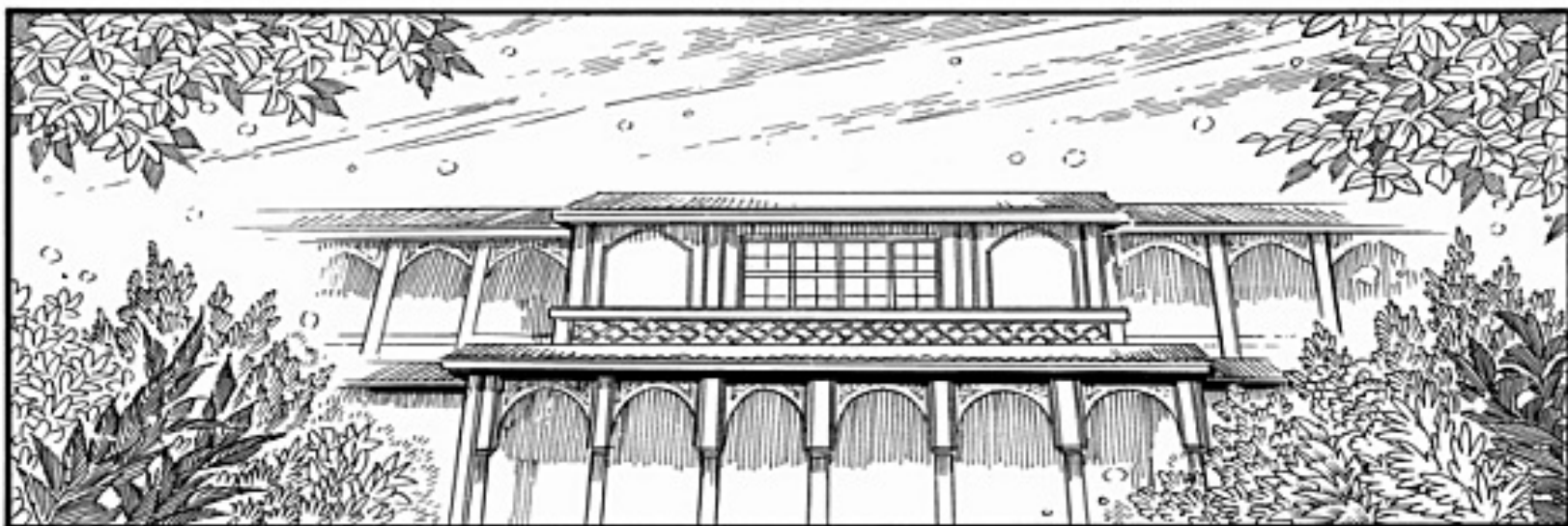
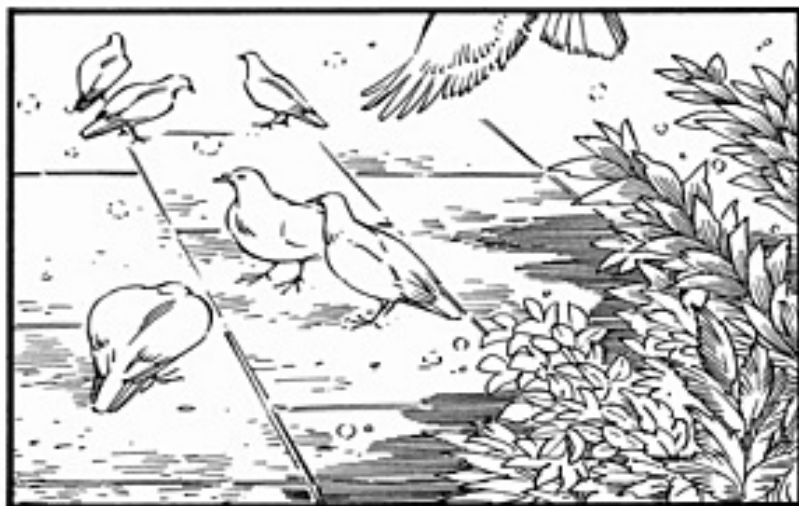
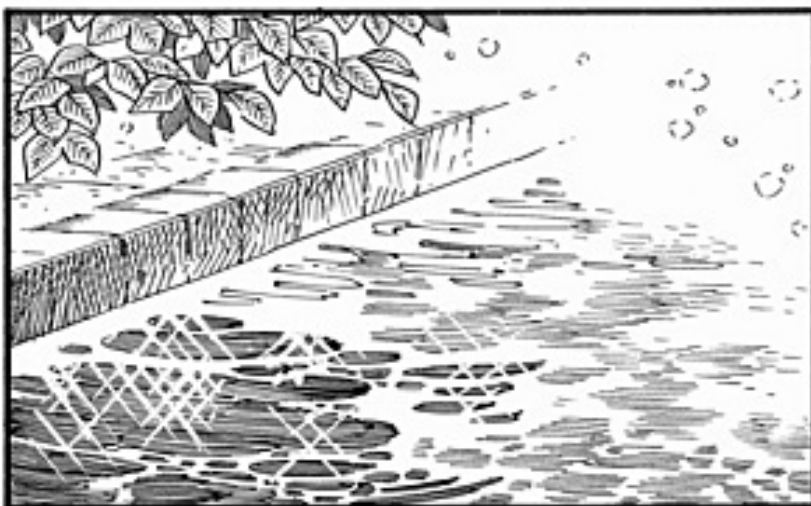


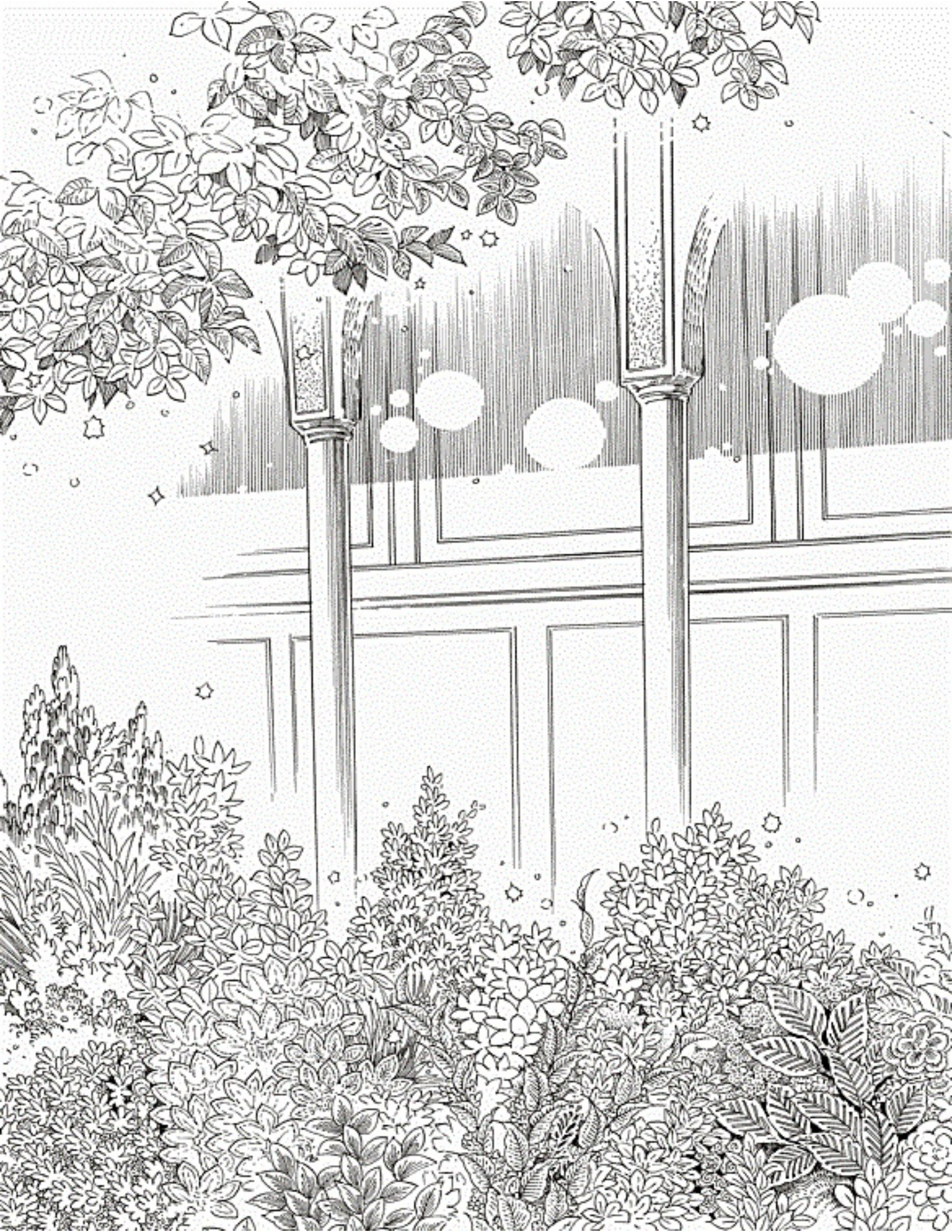






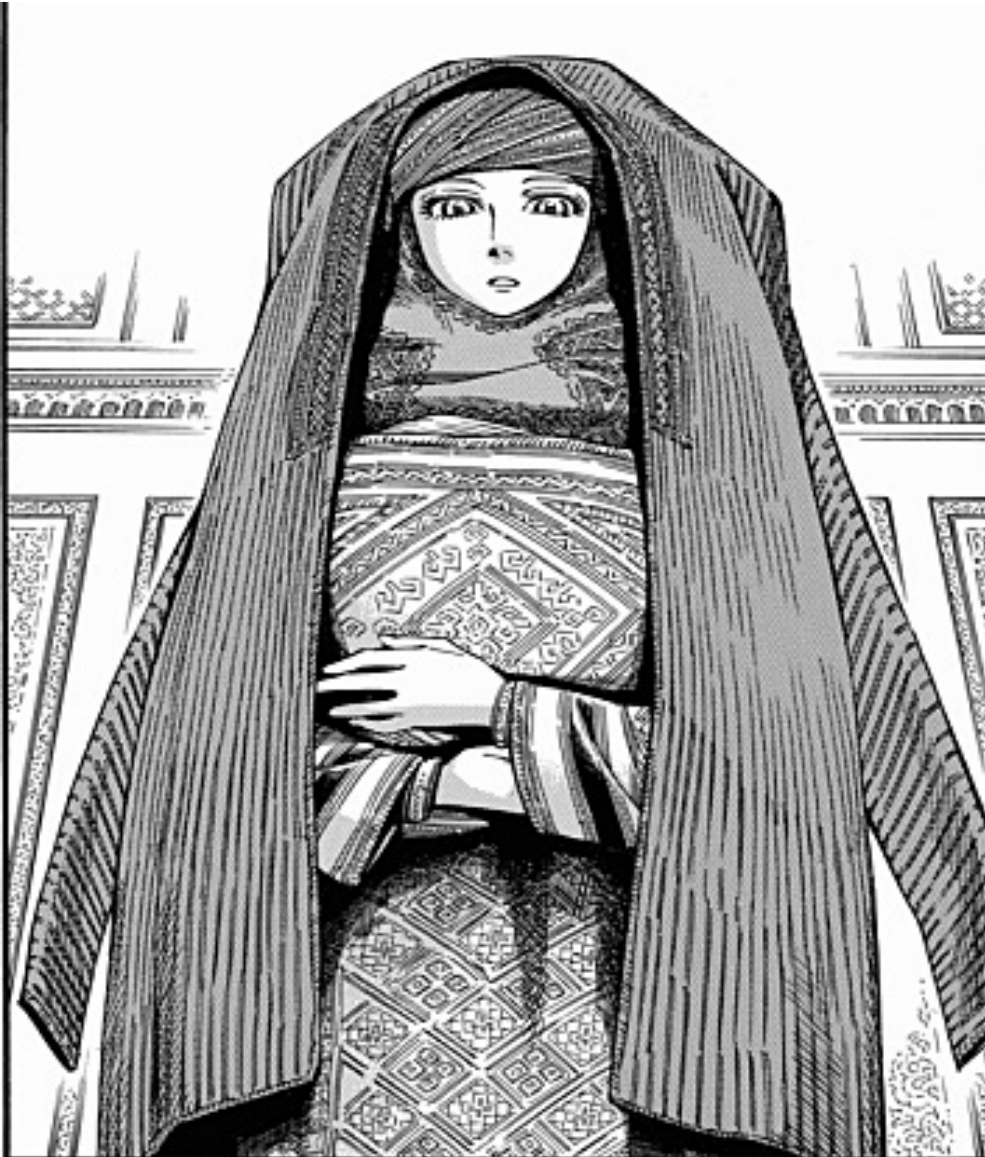






CHAPTER 83
PERSIAN NIGHT







NICE
TO
MEET
YOU.

MY
NAME IS
SHERINE.

AND
THIS IS
ANIS.



IT'S
SO WON-
DERFUL
TO MEET
YOU.

MAY
I ASK
YOUR
NAME?



I DO...

...A
LITTLE.

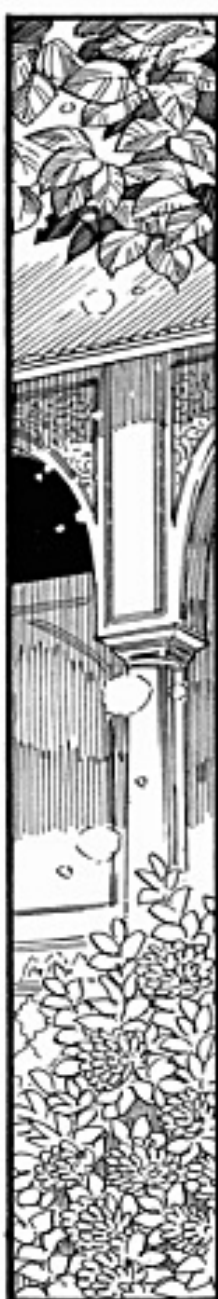
I'M SO
SORRY!
CAN YOU
UNDER-
STAND
ME?

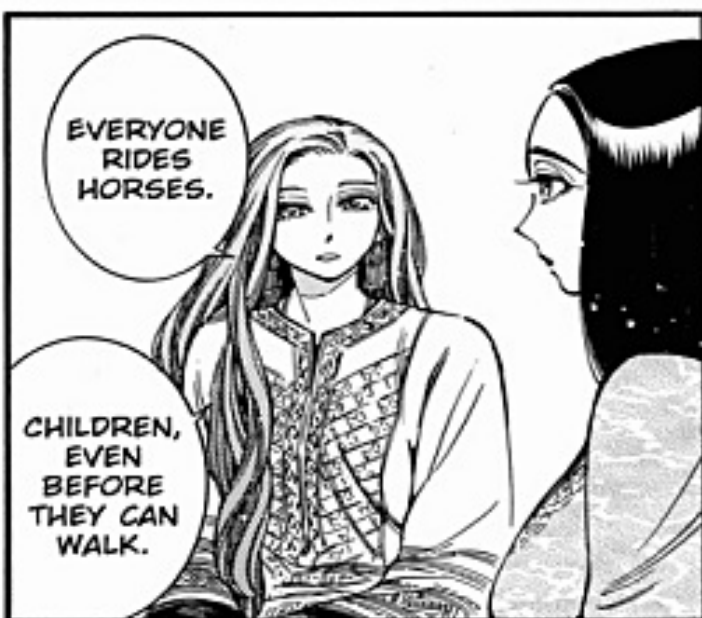
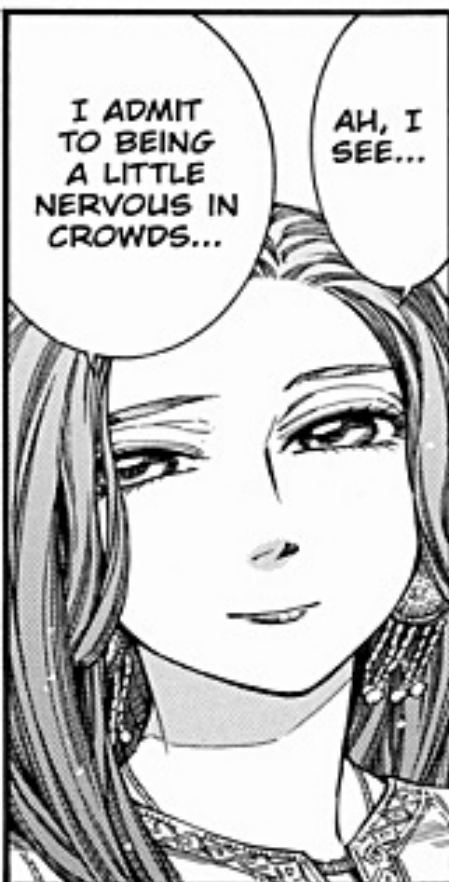
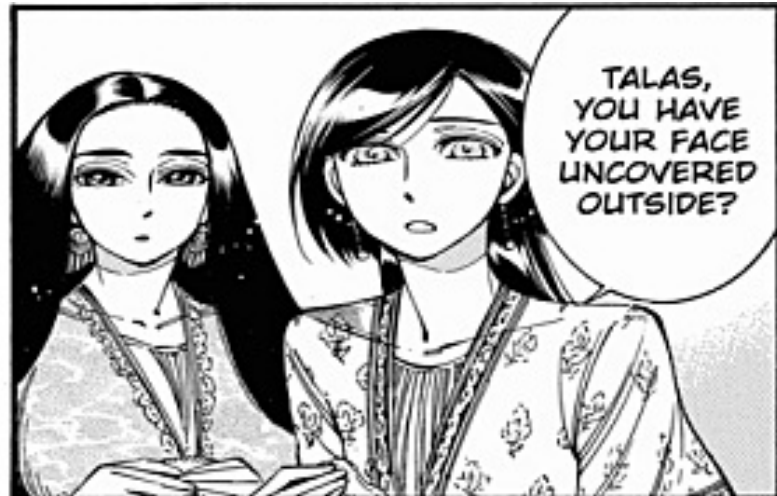


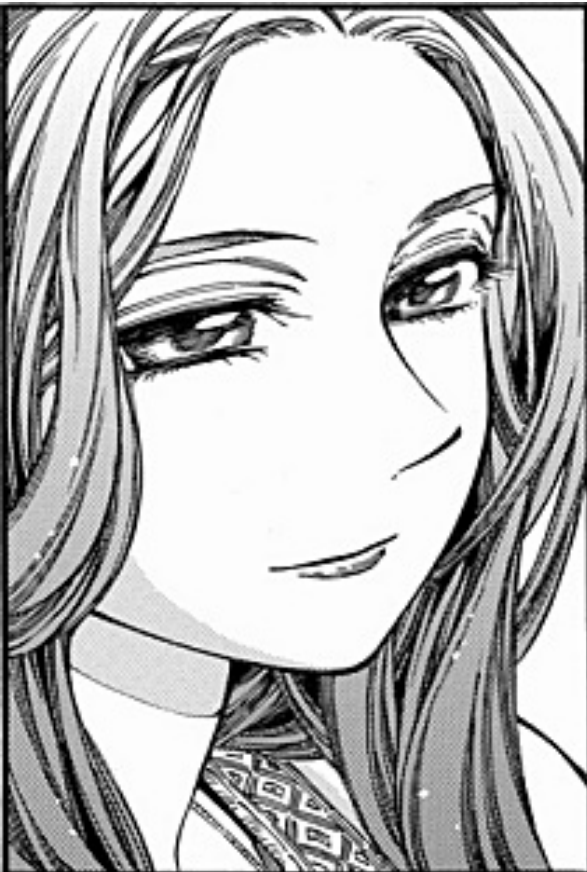
I AM
TALAS...

...
MA'AM.









ASIDE FROM
WHEN A
PEDDLER
COMES TO
THE HOUSE,
PERHAPS.

I'VE
NEVER
BOUGHT
ANY-
THING.



DO
WOMEN
GO TO
THE
MARKET?

IF WE CAN
GET THE
MEN TO GO,
THEY GO...

...BUT
SOMETIMES,
WOMEN GO
TOO.



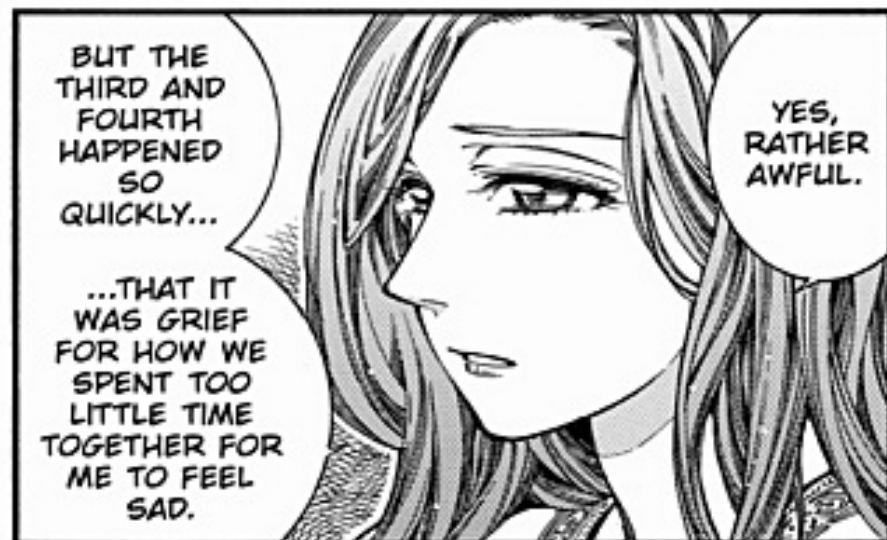
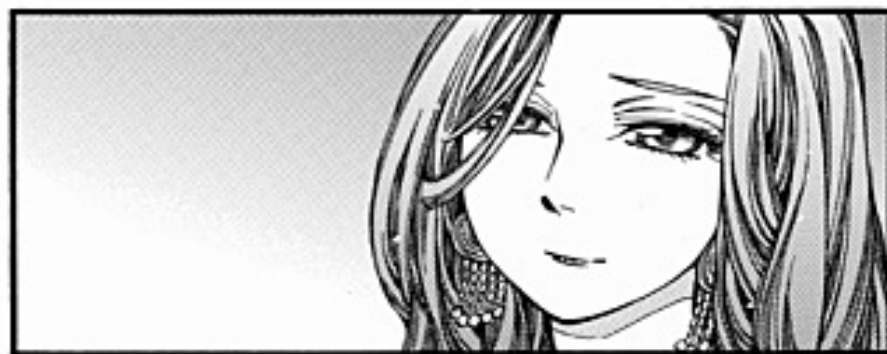
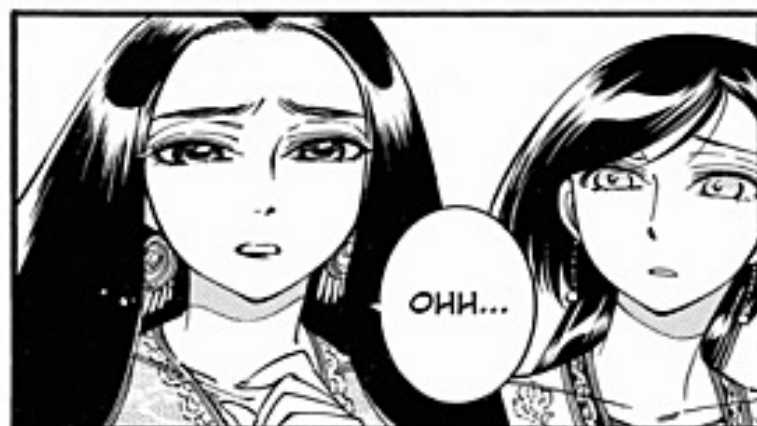
WHERE
DO YOU
COME
FROM?

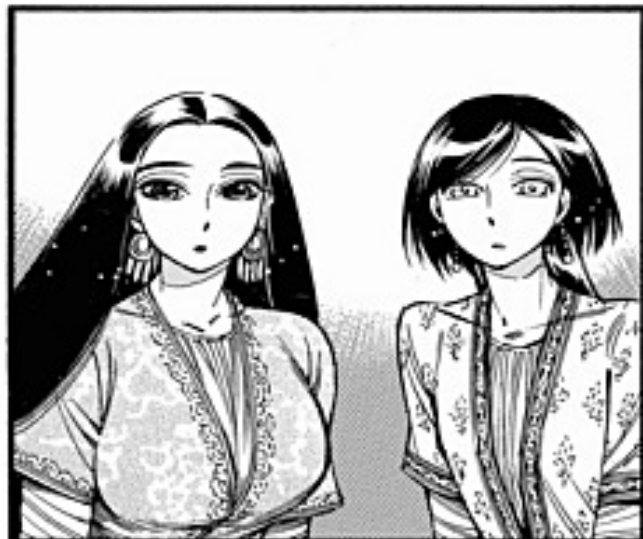
A VERY
LONG WAY
AWAY, YES?



YOU SAY
YOU'VE GONE
ALL THE
WAY TO THE
MOUNTAINS?

HAVE
YOU
VISITED
ANY
INTER-
ESTING
TOWNS?







YOUR
CURRENT
HUS-
BAND?



THAT'S
WHEN
HE CAME
ALONG.



WITHOUT
A FAMILY
TO
RETURN
TO...

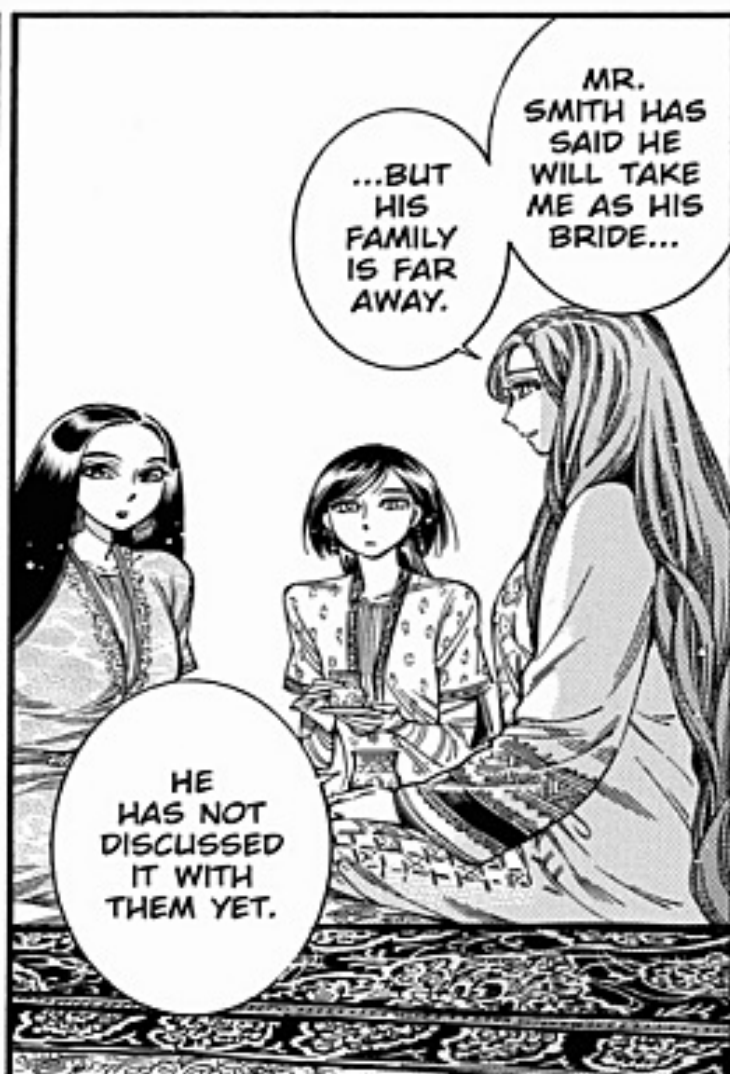
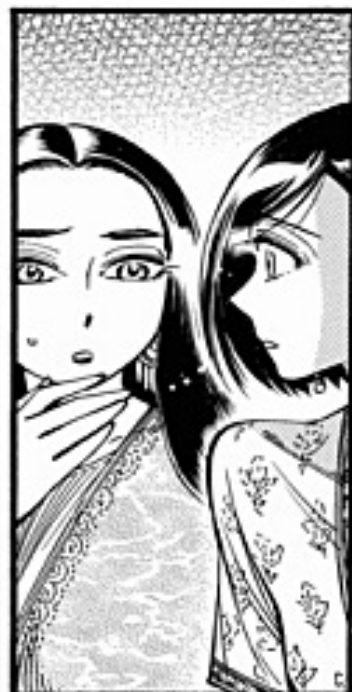
...I THOUGHT
I SHOULD
HAVE TO MAKE
A LIVING AS
BEST AS I
COULD WITH
MY MOTHER-
IN-LAW.



HIS
FATHER
DOES NOT
KNOW OF
IT.



CAN A MAN
EVEN DISCUSS
MARRIAGE
WITHOUT
HIS FATHER
INVOLVED?



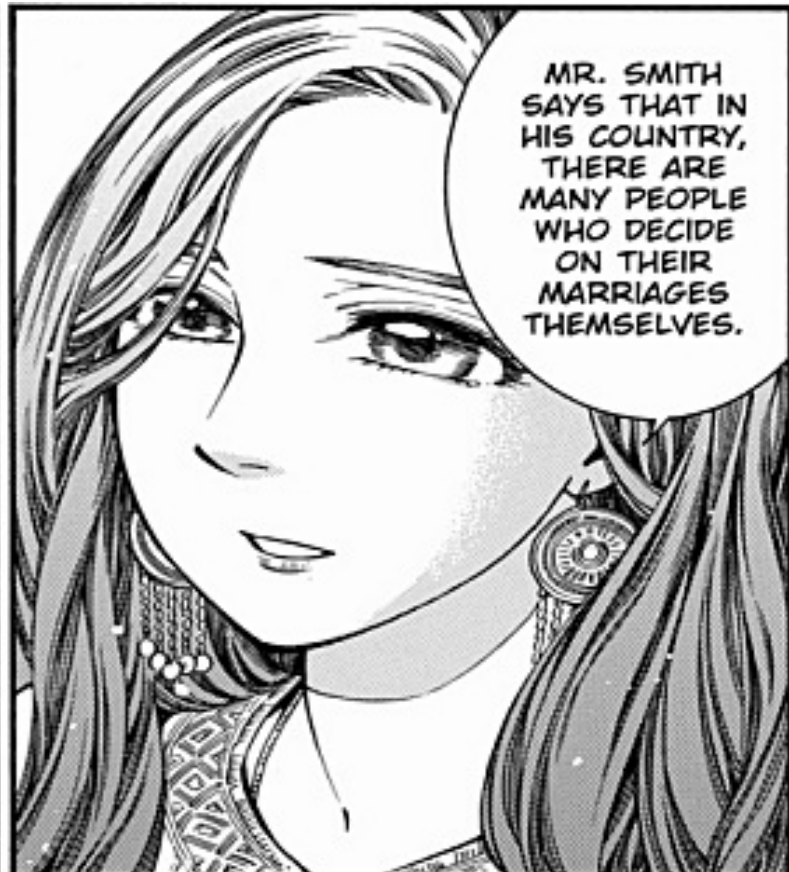
MR.
SMITH HAS
SAID HE
WILL TAKE
ME AS HIS
BRIDE...

...BUT
HIS
FAMILY
IS FAR
AWAY.

HE
HAS NOT
DISCUSSED
IT WITH
THEM YET.



THEM-
SELVES...?



MR. SMITH
SAYS THAT IN
HIS COUNTRY,
THERE ARE
MANY PEOPLE
WHO DECIDE
ON THEIR
MARRIAGES
THEMSELVES.



I
COULD
NOT
SAY.

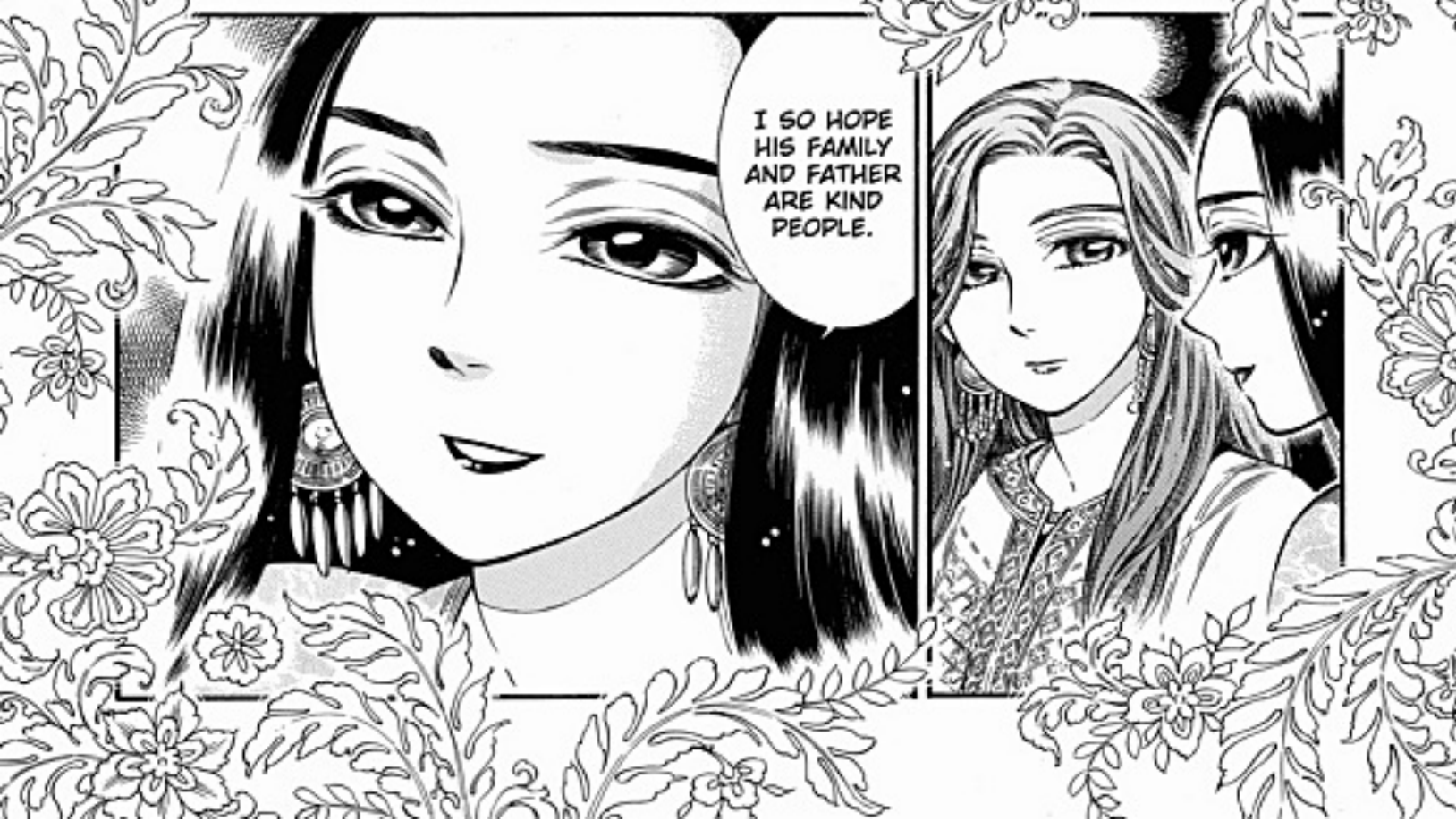
BUT CAN
THEY GET
ALONG
WITH THE
FAMILY
LIKE
THAT?



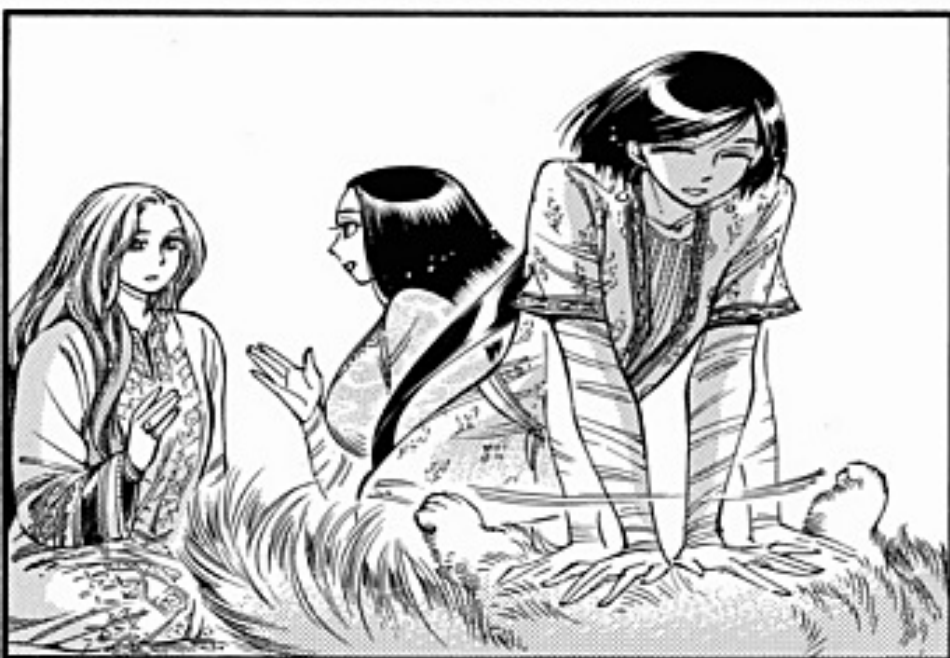
I THINK
THAT
WOULD BE
ENOUGH
FOR ME.

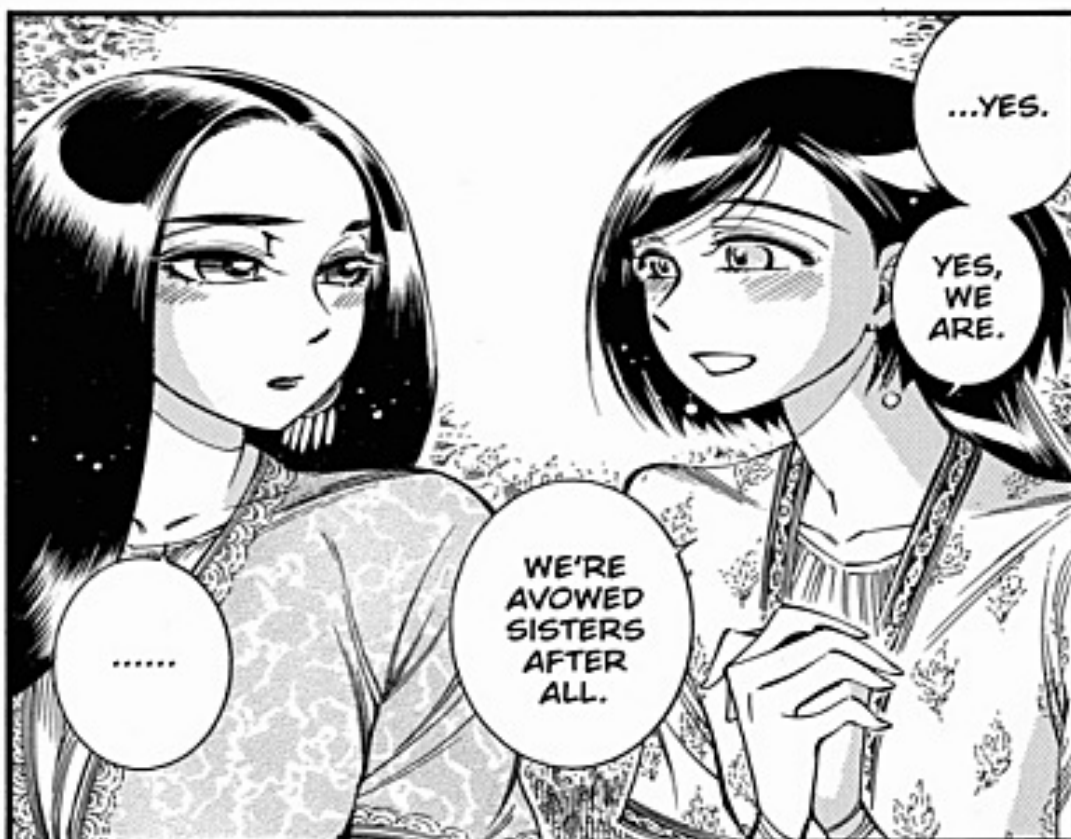
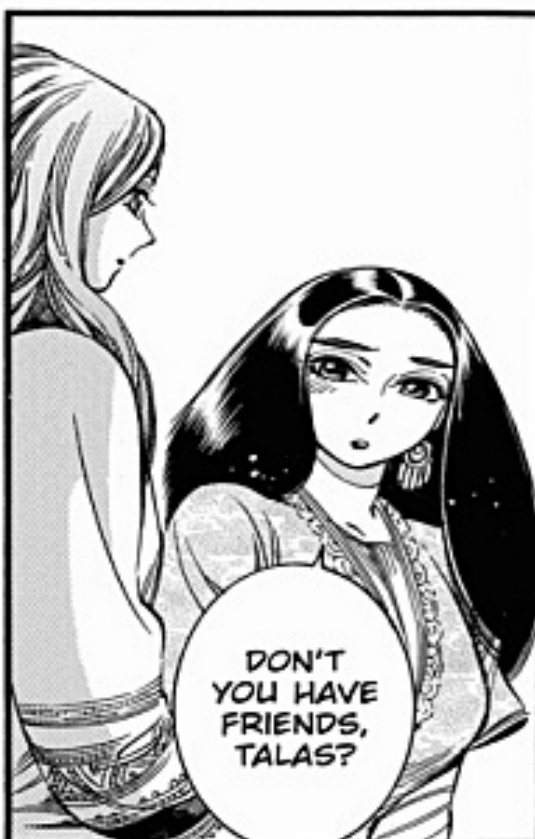
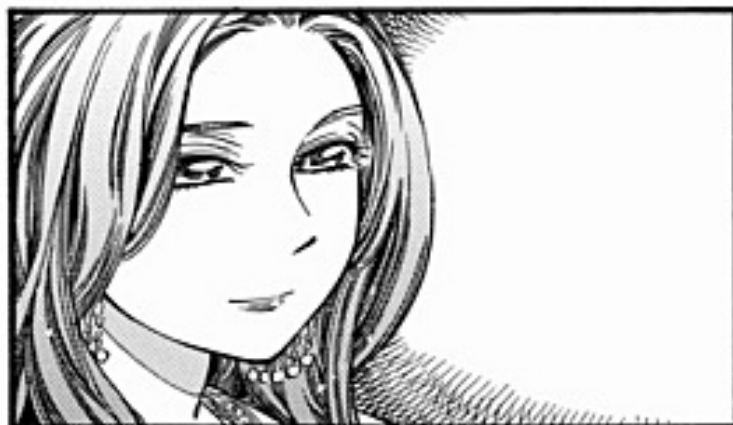
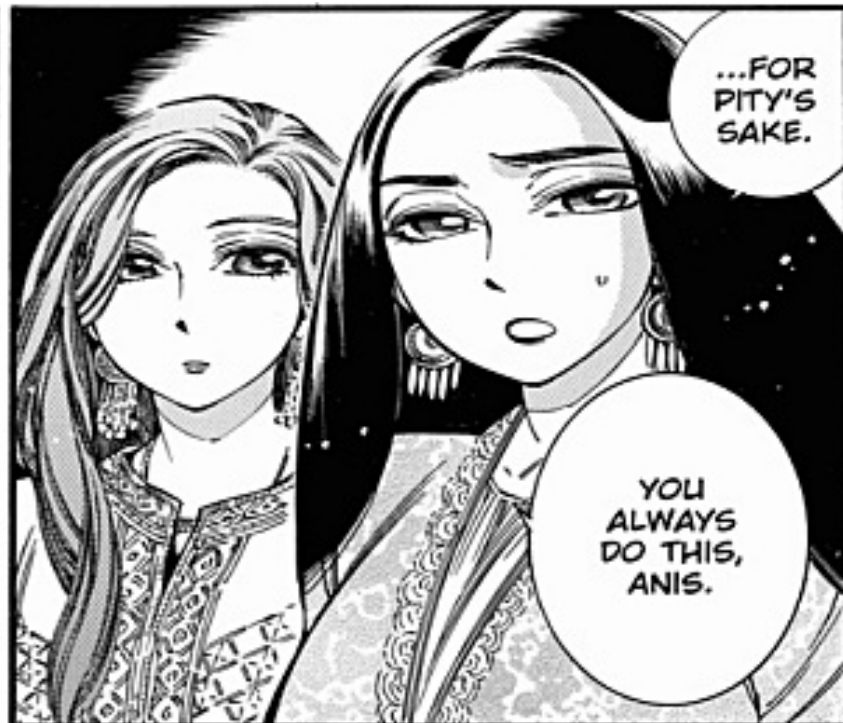
BUT NO
MATTER
WHAT, I'D
LIKE TO STAY
CLOSE TO
HIM.

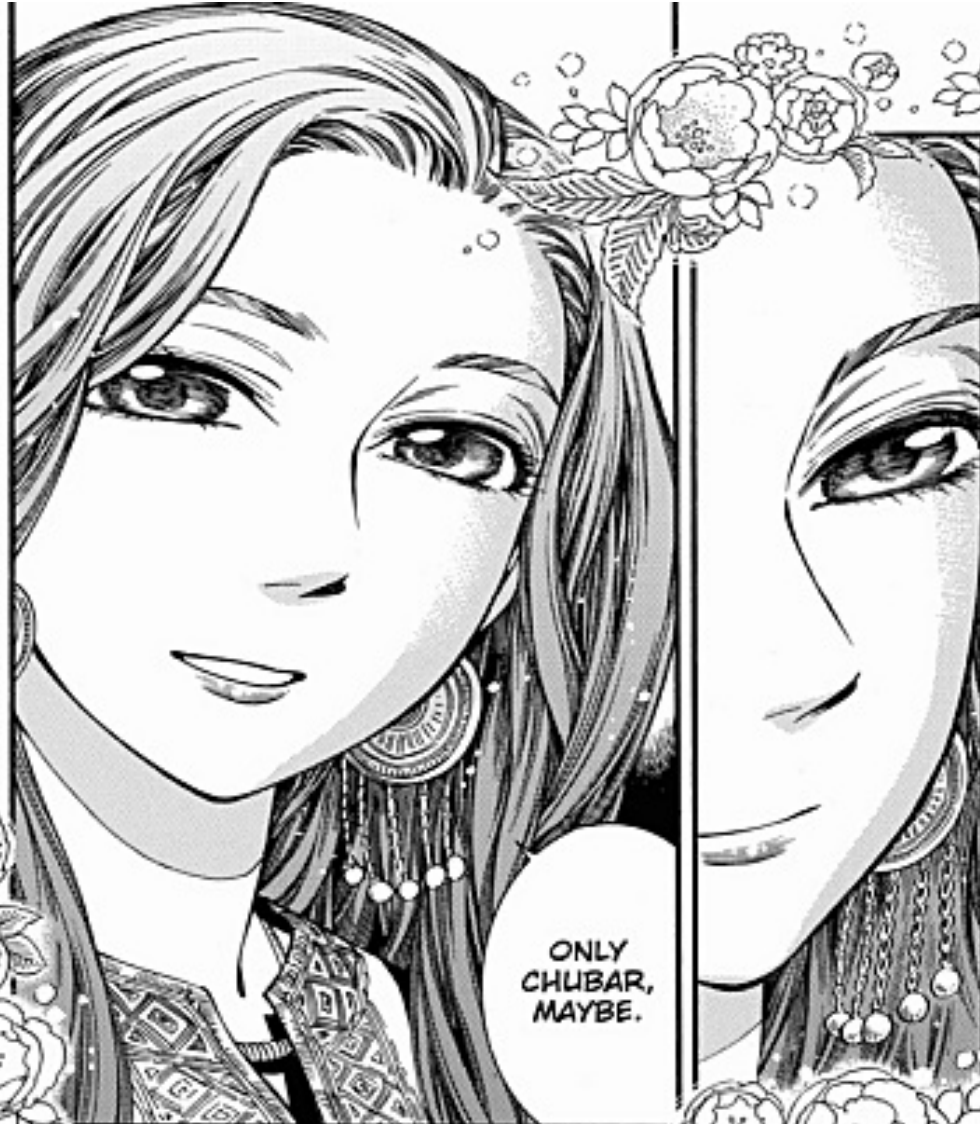
I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
WILL HAPPEN
IN THE
FUTURE.









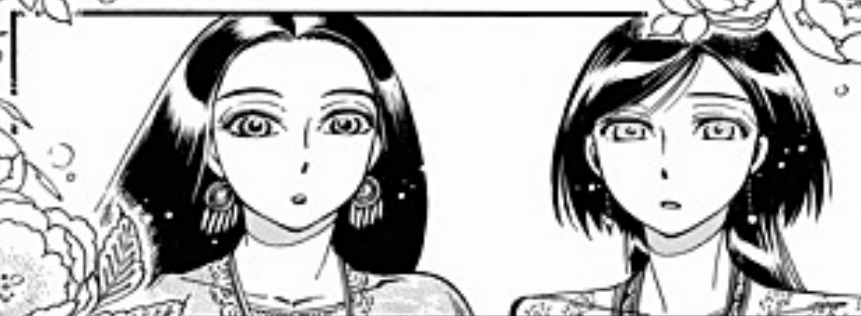


ONLY
CHUBAR,
MAYBE.



FRIENDS
...?

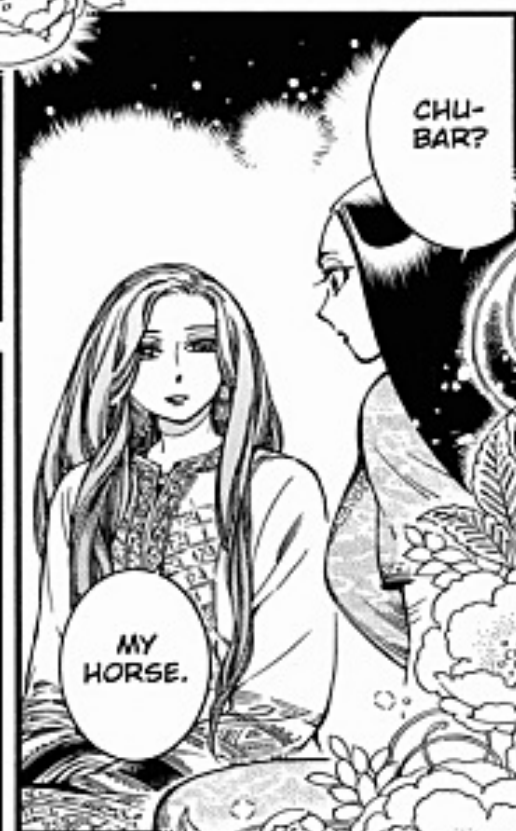
NOT AT
PRESENT.



WE'RE
LIKE OLD
FRIENDS.

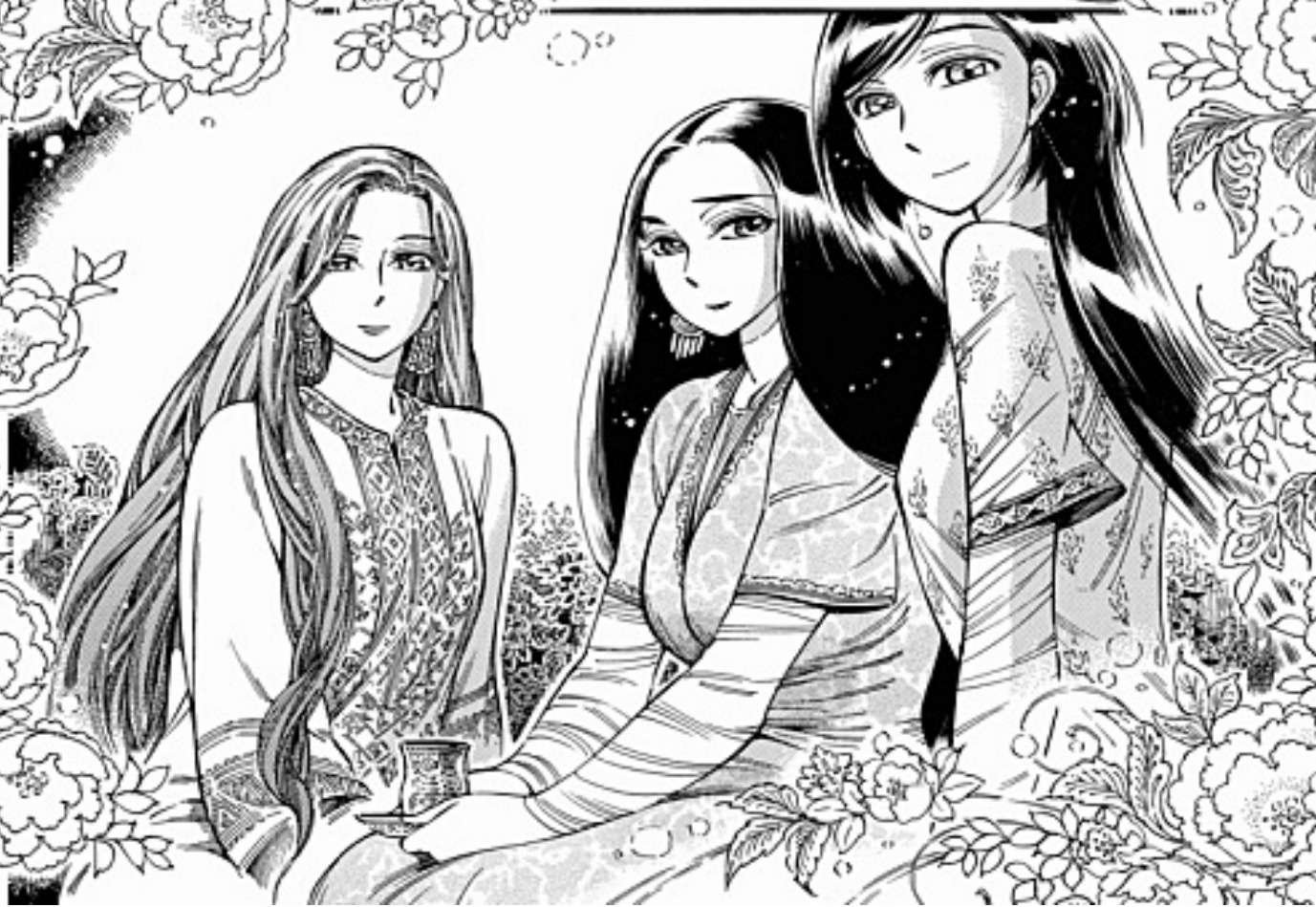
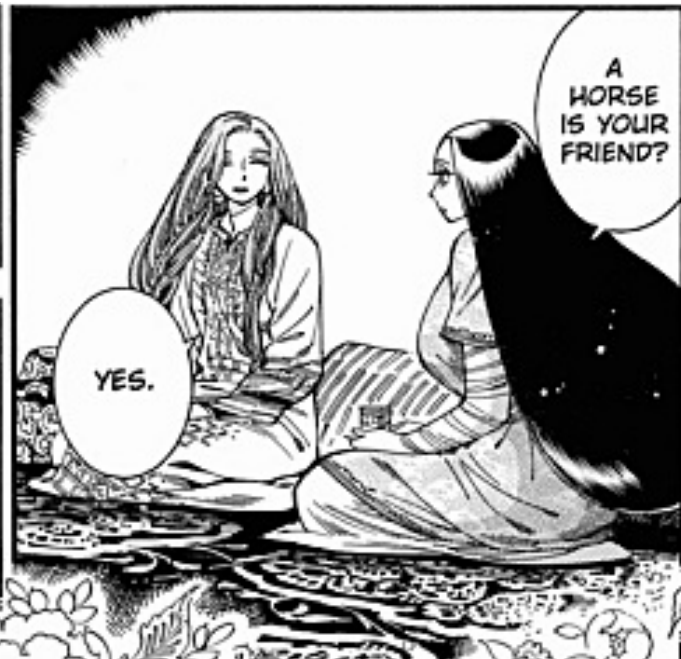


CHUBAR
AND I HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN
TOGETHER.



CHU-
BAR?

MY
HORSE.

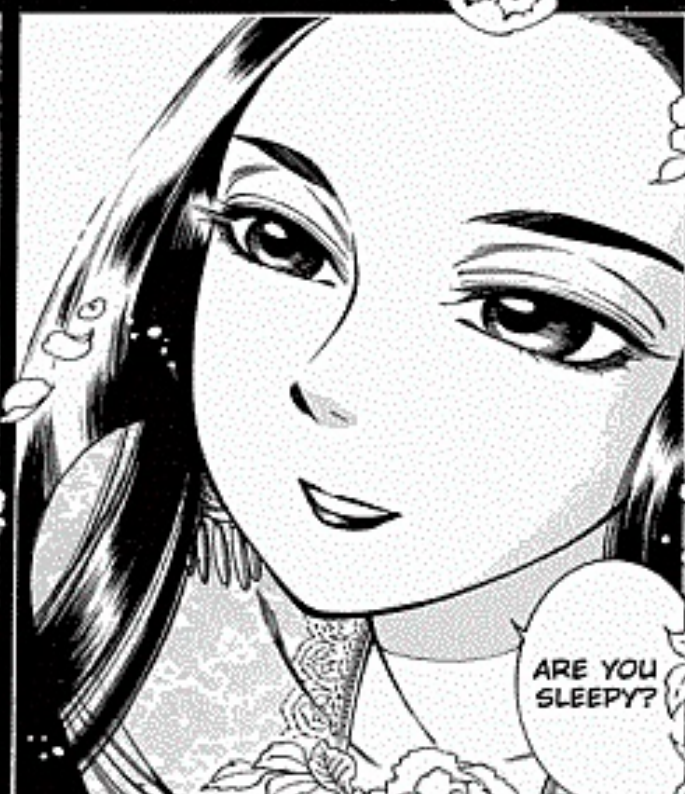




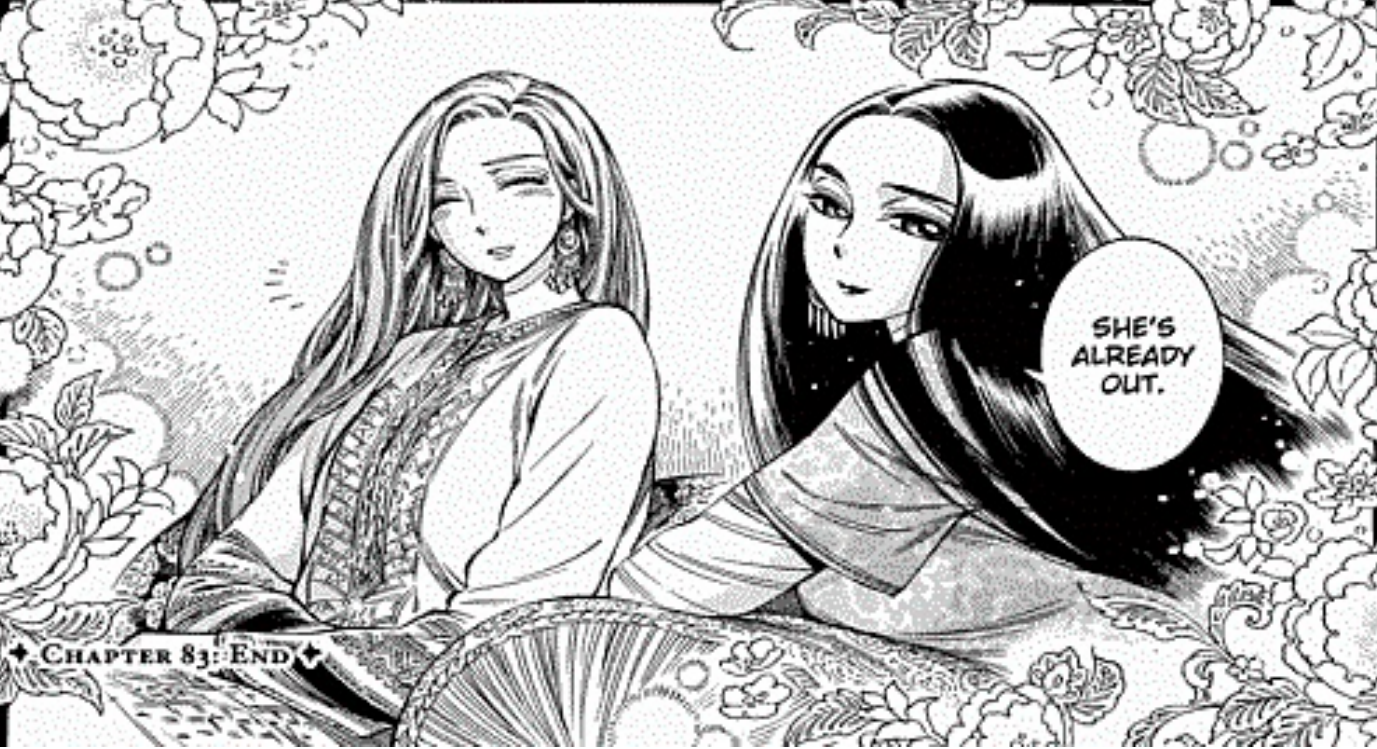
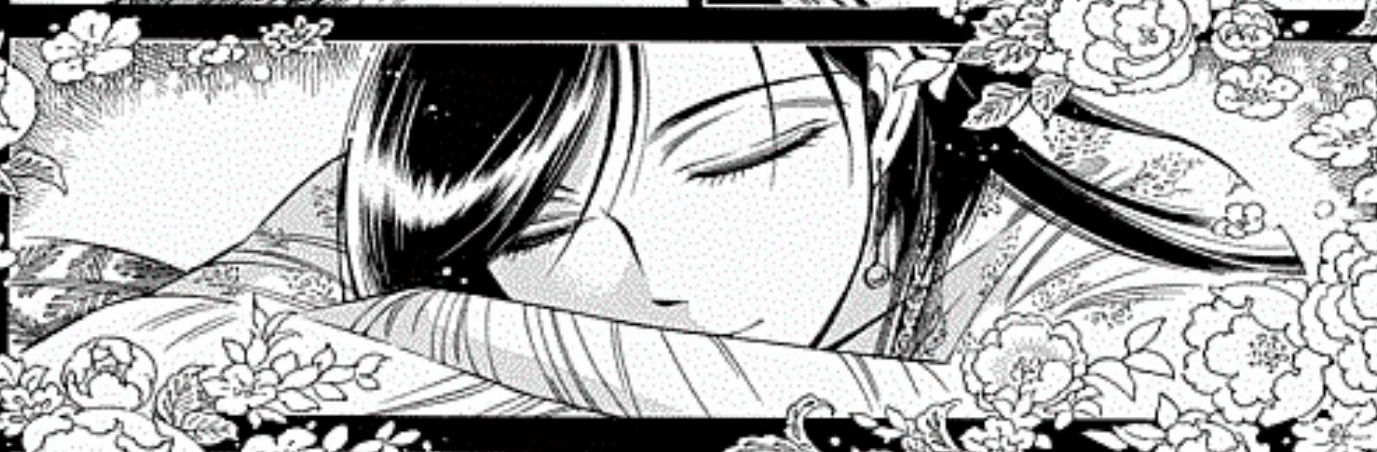




NOT AT ALL.



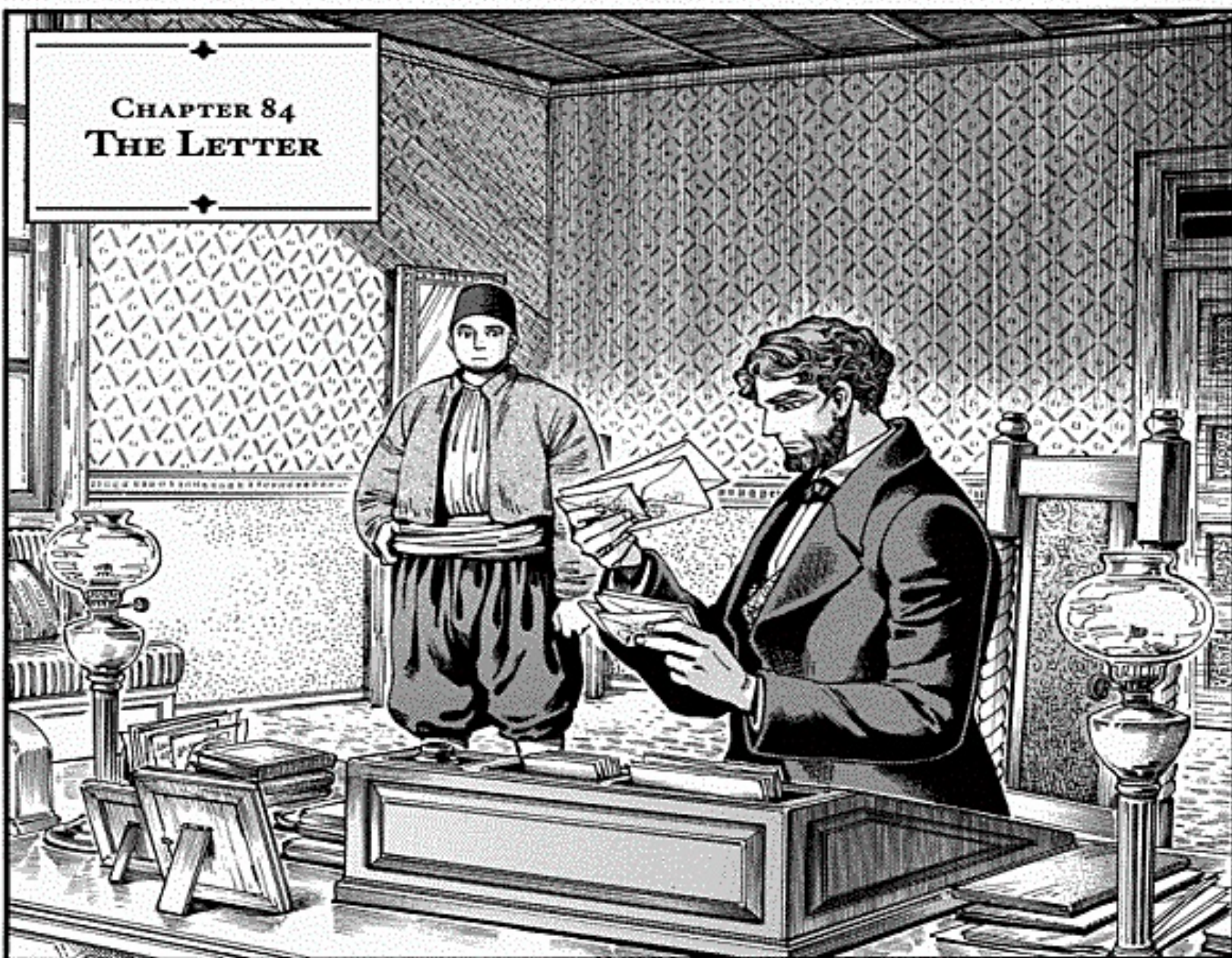
ARE YOU SLEEPY?



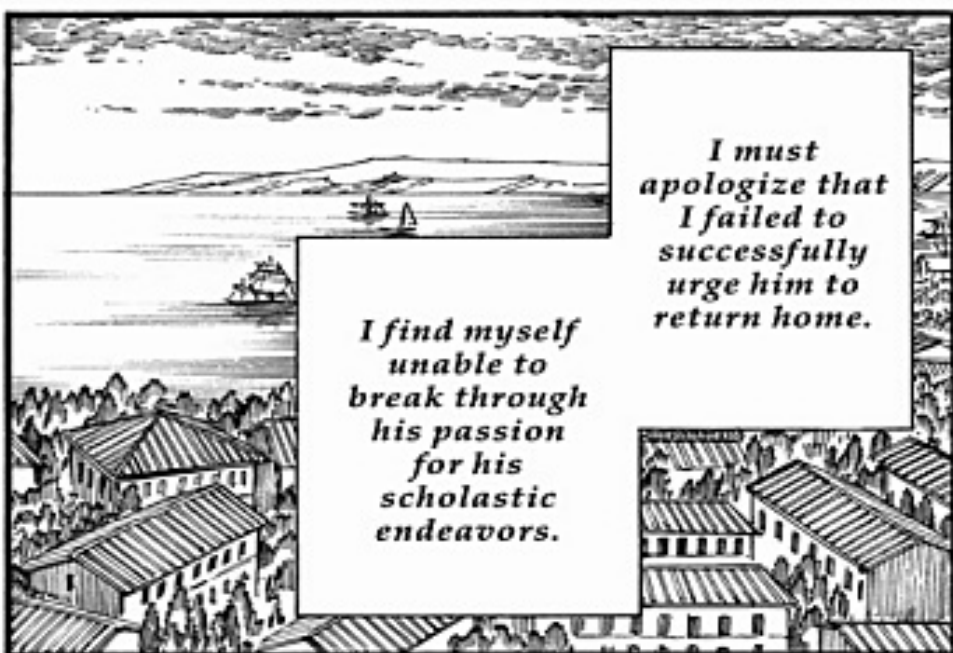
SHE'S
ALREADY
OUT.

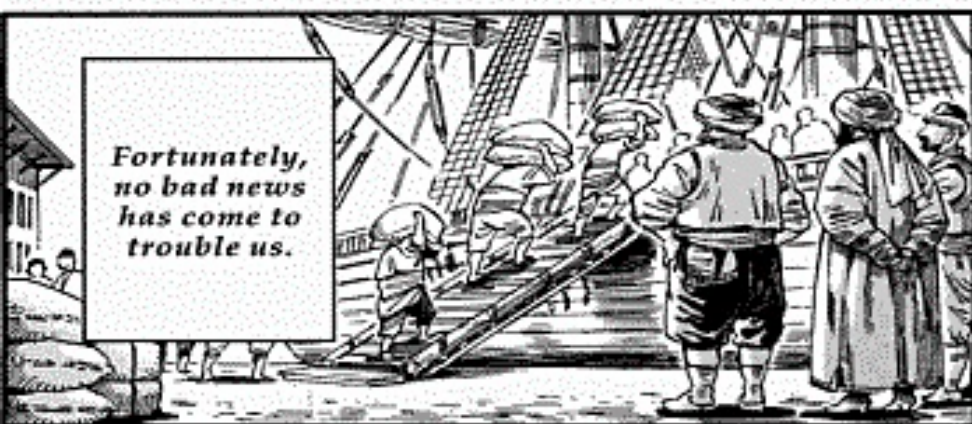


CHAPTER 84
THE LETTER

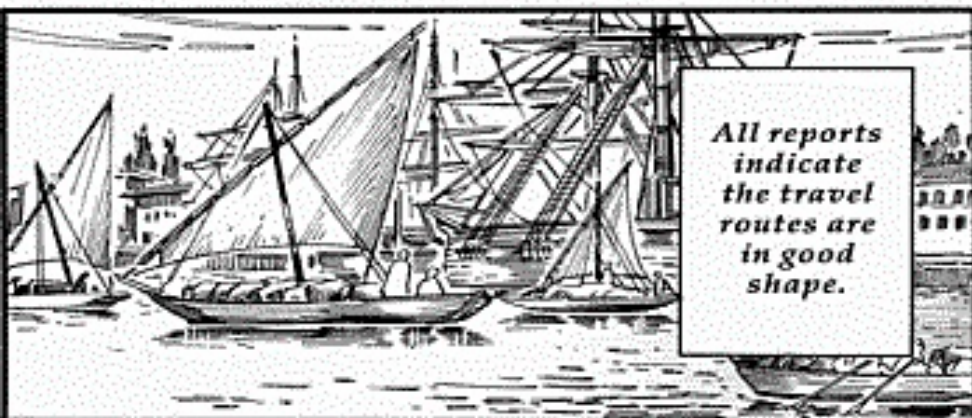




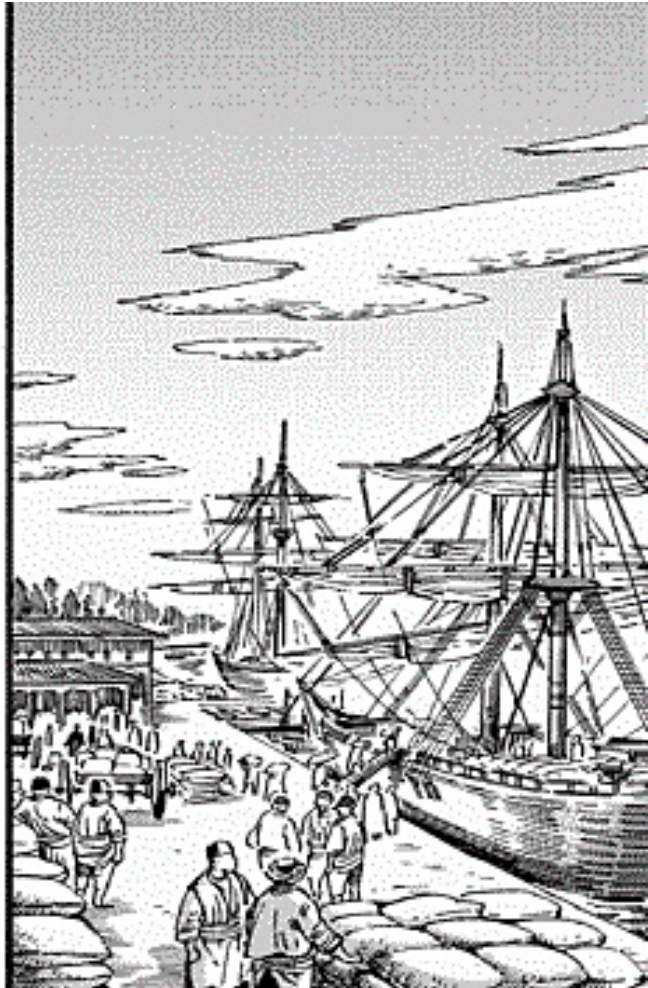




*Fortunately,
no bad news
has come to
trouble us.*



*All reports
indicate
the travel
routes are
in good
shape.*

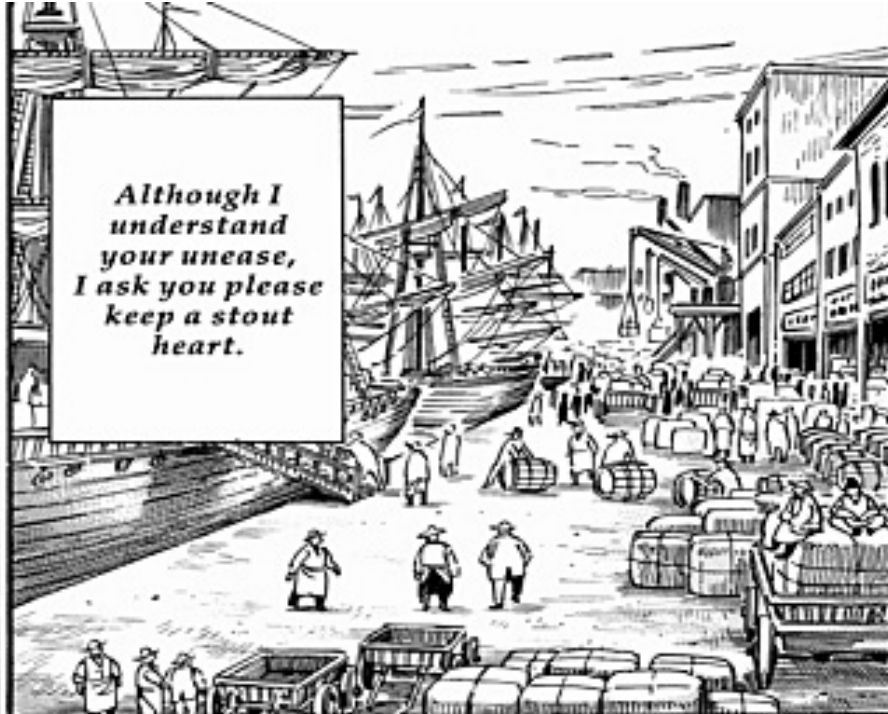


*I mean
to help him
reach his goal
and return
safely to you
in the near
future.*



*I sent him
on his
way in the
company
of a man
I trust to
guard him.*

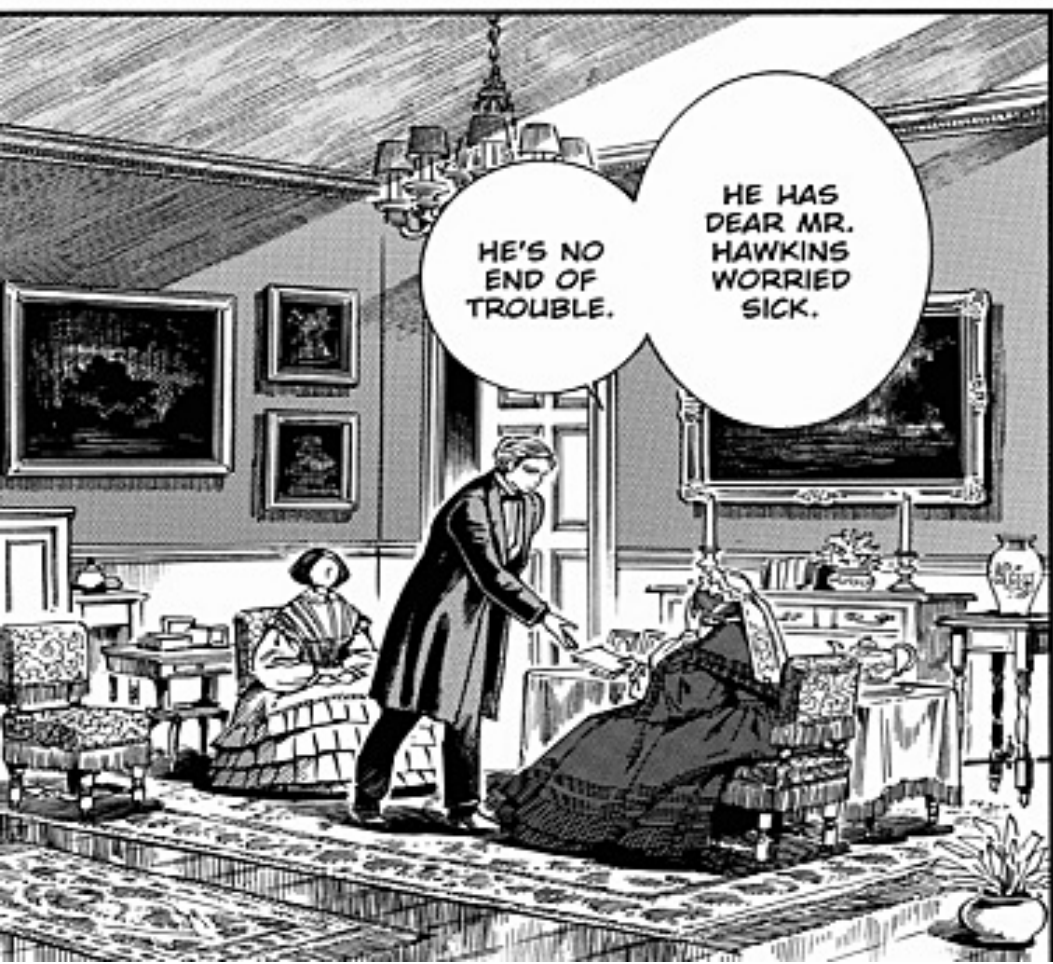
*So I have
taken every
precaution
I could
conceive of
to keep him
safe.*



*Although I
understand
your unease,
I ask you please
keep a stout
heart.*

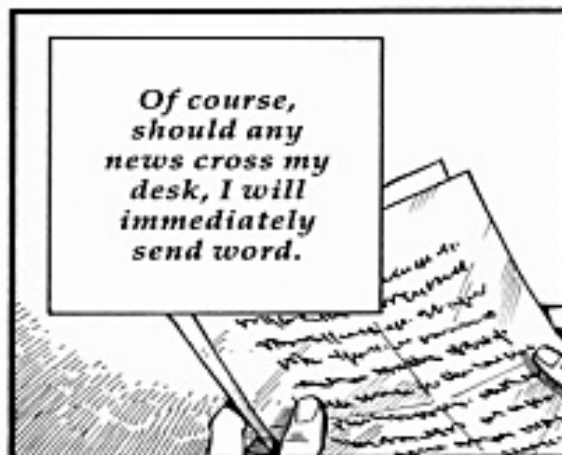


*I feel
certain God
is watching
over him.*



HE'S NO
END OF
TROUBLE.

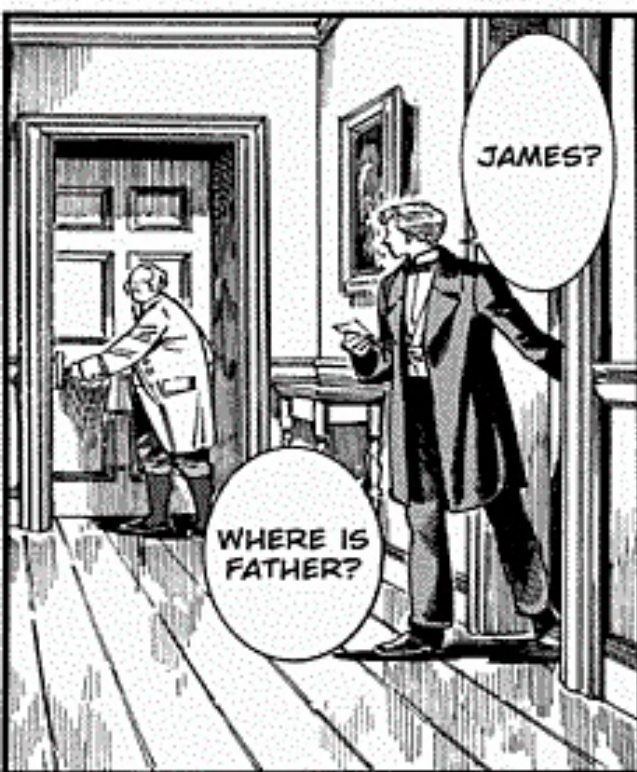
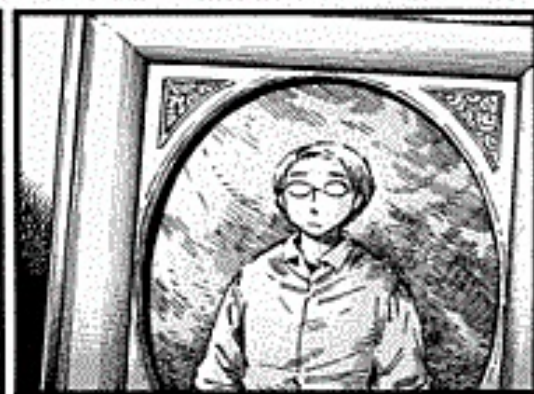
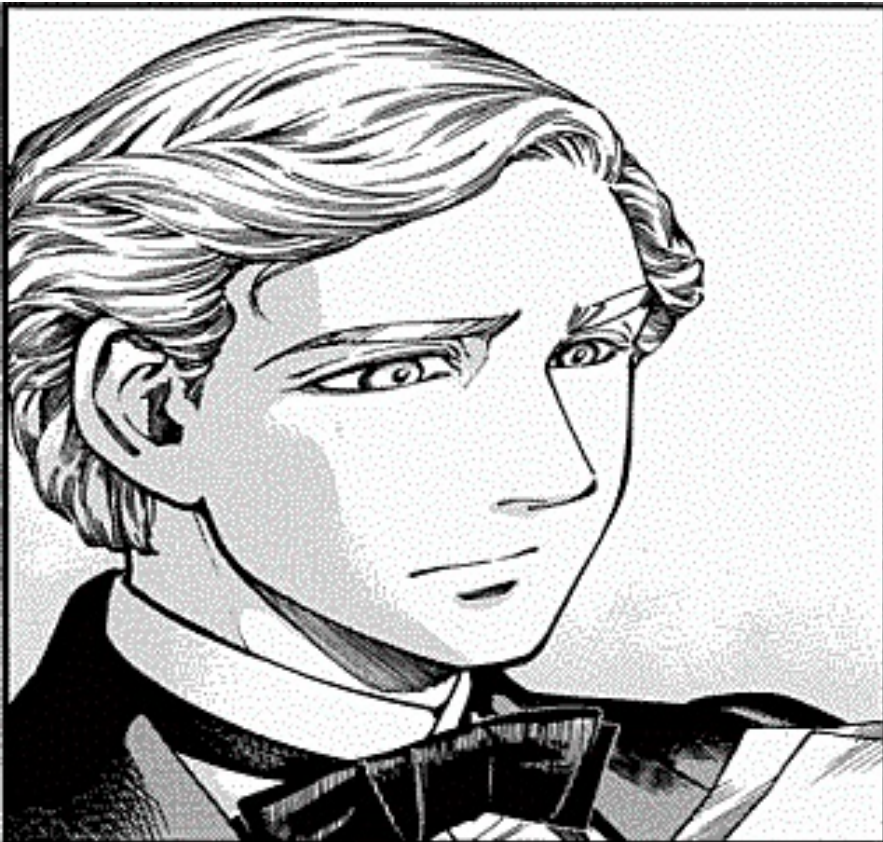
HE HAS
DEAR MR.
HAWKINS
WORRIED
SICK.

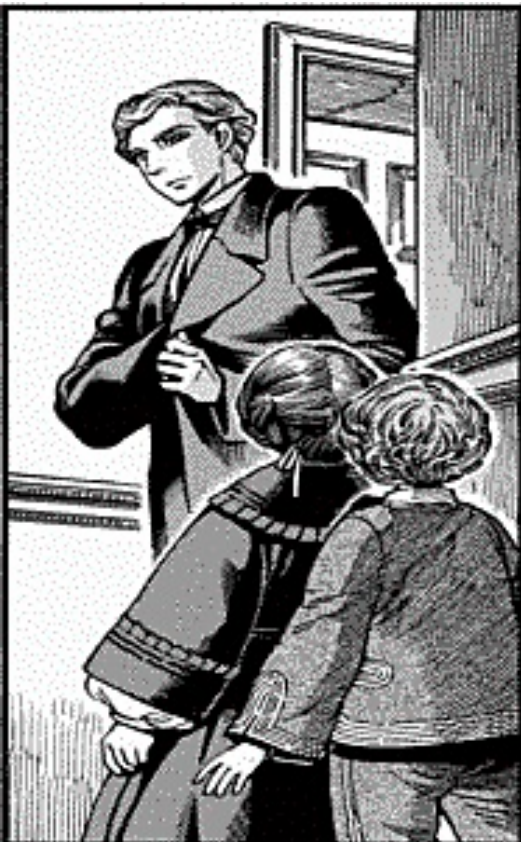


*Of course,
should any
news cross my
desk, I will
immediately
send word.*



...FOR
HEAVEN'S
SAKE,
THAT
CHILD...





INFORM
ME
WHEN HE
RETURNS,
WOULD
YOU?

I HAVE
SOME
NEWS OF
HENRY.



HE'S
GONE TO A
MEETING.

.....



AH,
IS THAT
SO?



NO.

IS
UNCLE
COMING
HOME?

HE'LL
BE A BIT
LONGER.



FATHER!

UNCLE
HENRY IS
IN INDIA,
ISN'T HE?



IS IT
UNCLE
HENRY?



DON'T
TALK
DRIVEL,
ELIOT!

BESIDES,
HENRY ISN'T
IN INDIA.
HE'S IN
TURKISTAN.



INDIA HAS
LOADS OF
TIGERS AND
ELEPHANTS,
DOESN'T IT?

IF HE DID, WE
COULD PLAY
HANNIBAL AND
THE ROMANS!

COULD UNCLE
HENRY BRING
US BACK AN
ELEPHANT?



IT IS
ALMOST
TIME FOR
YOUR
TUTOR TO
ARRIVE.

RETURN
TO YOUR
ROOM AND
PREPARE
FOR YOUR
LESSON!



BUT UNCLE
HENRY IS
RATHER ODD,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



OF
COURSE
I AM!

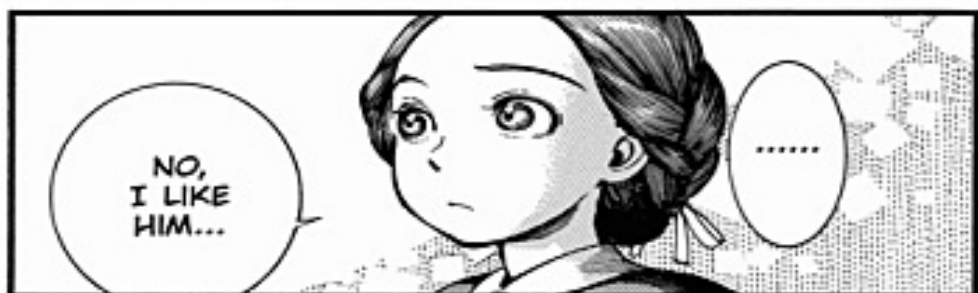
WHY?

SAY,
ELIOT...

HE'S
SUCH
FUN!

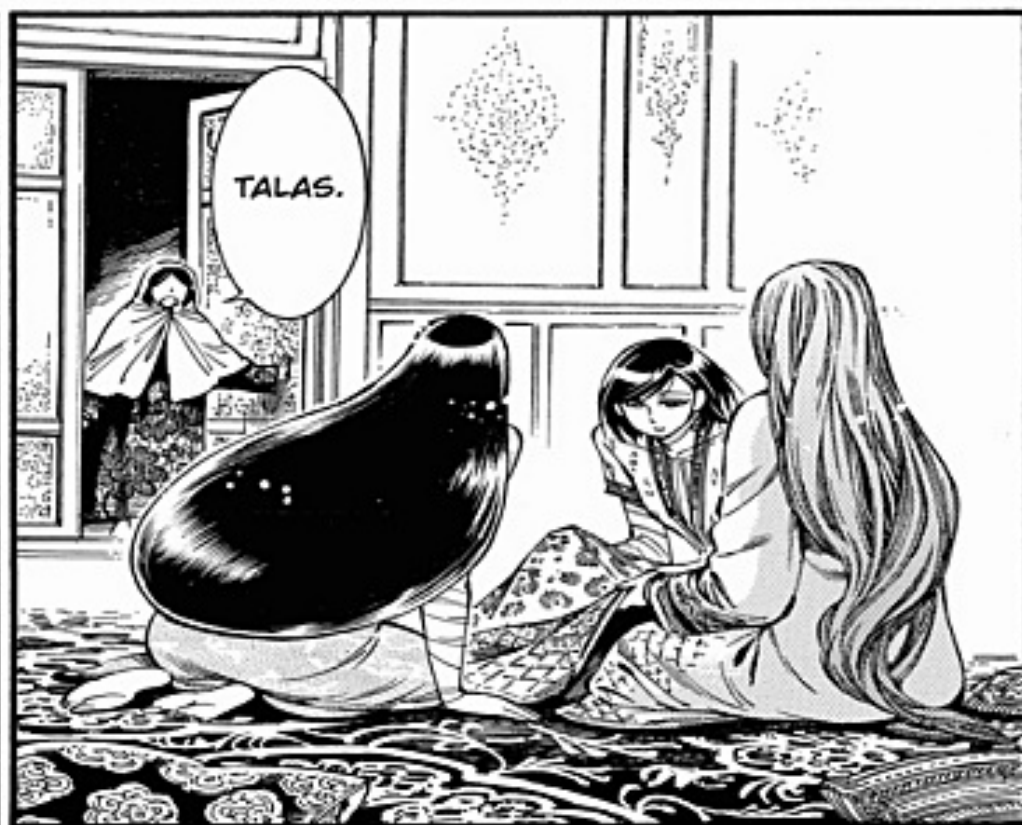
AREN'T
YOU FOND
OF HIM?

...ARE
YOU THAT
FOND OF
UNCLE
HENRY?



NO,
I LIKE
HIM...

.....

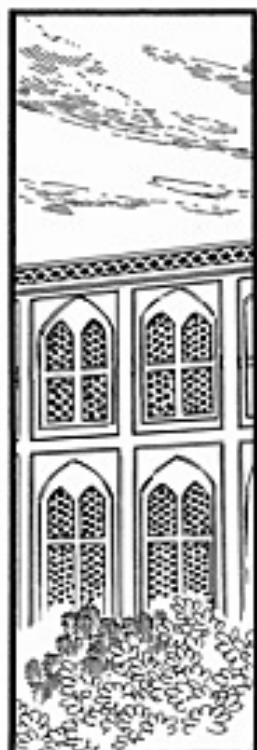


CHAPTER 85
PICTURES WITH
EVERYONE



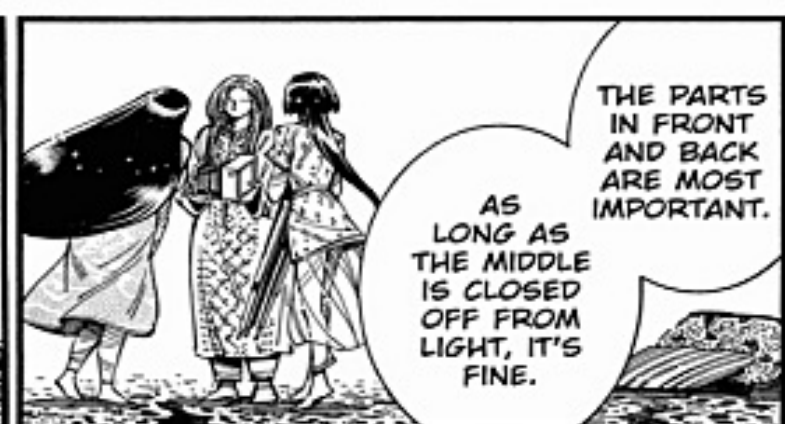
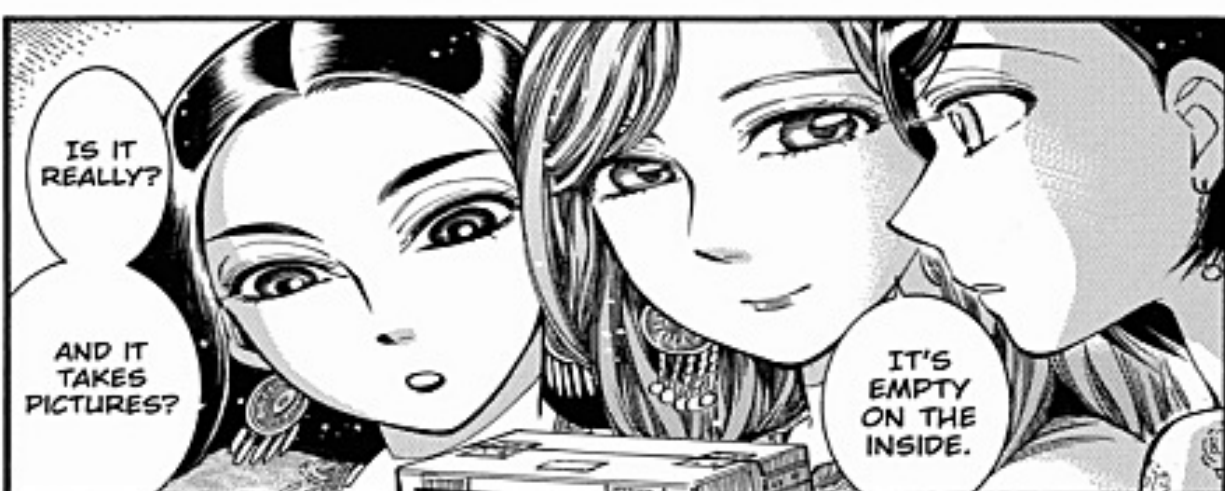
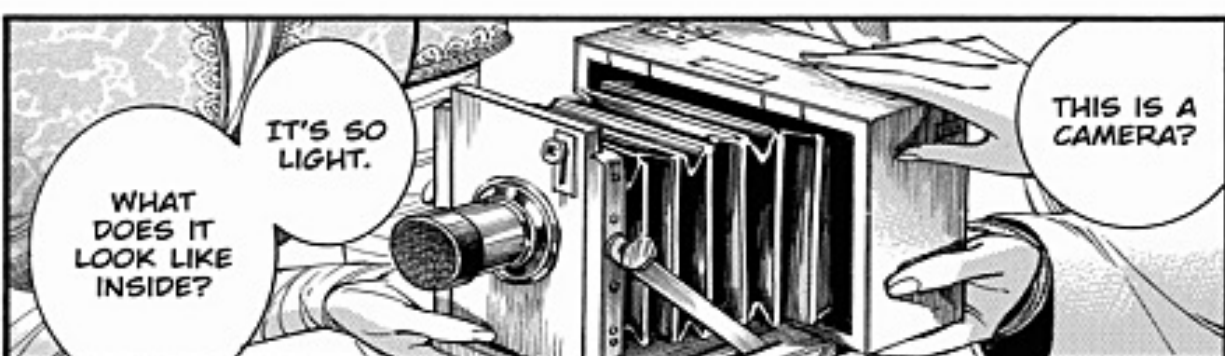
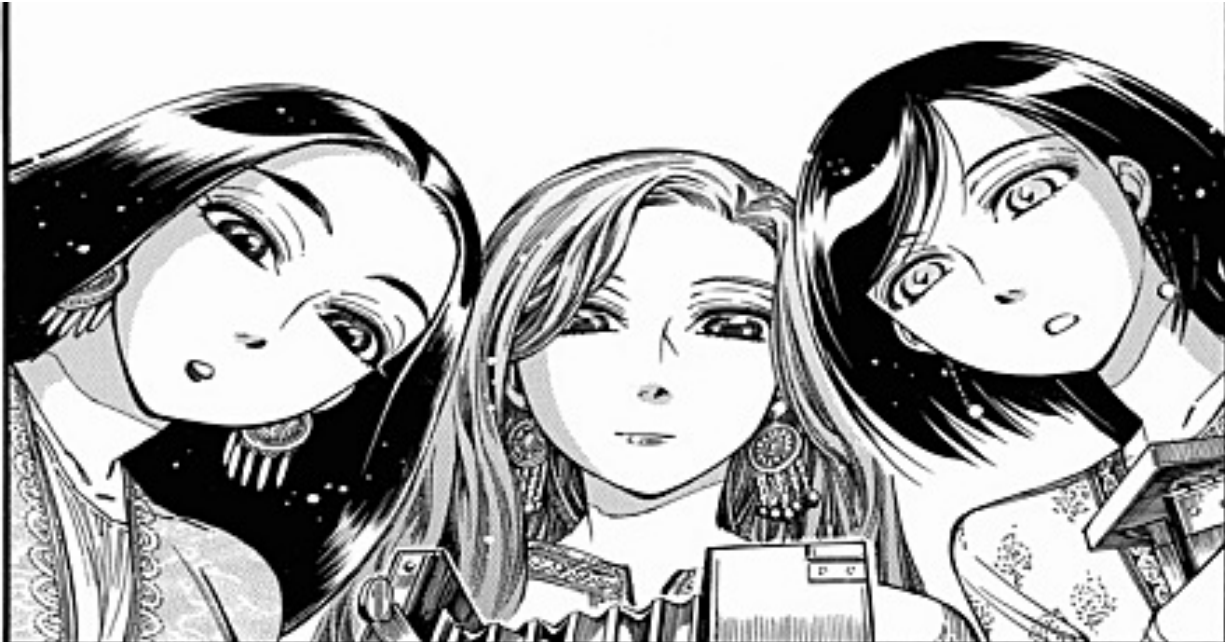


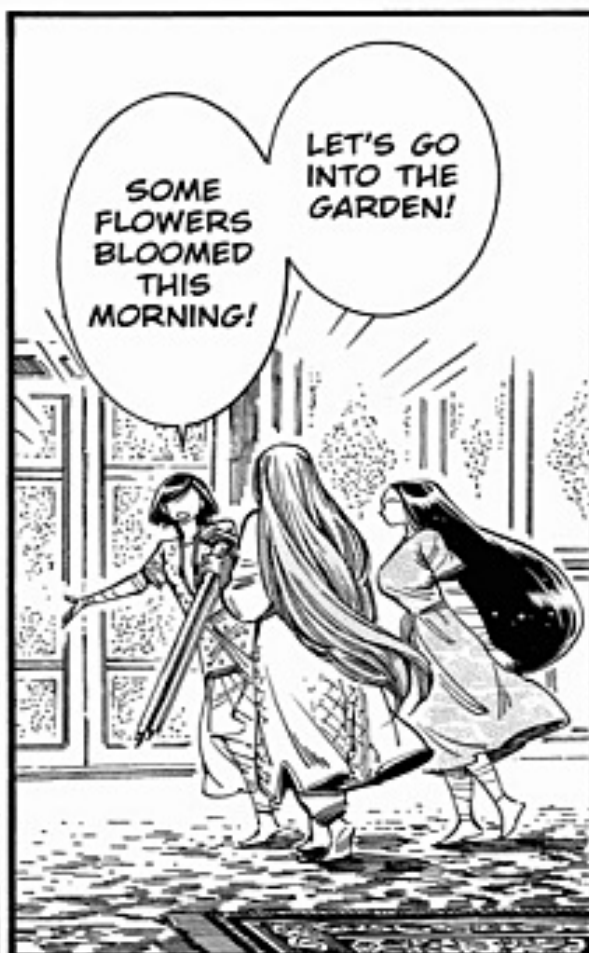
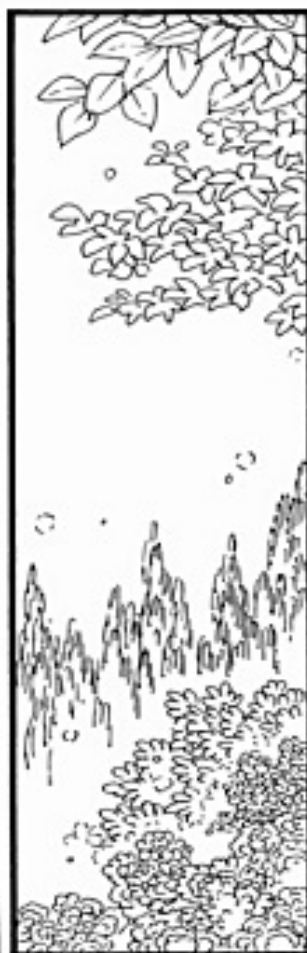
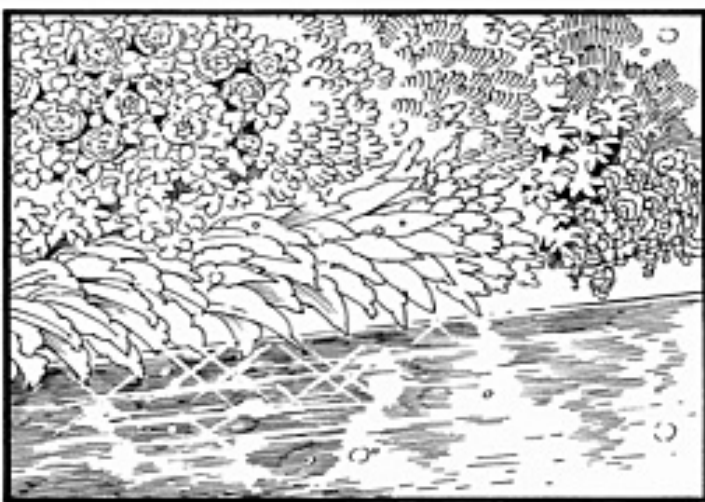
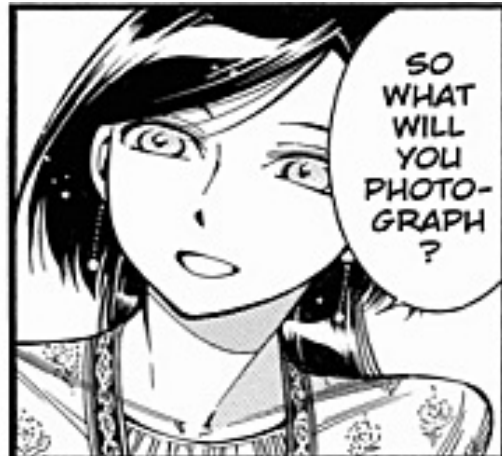


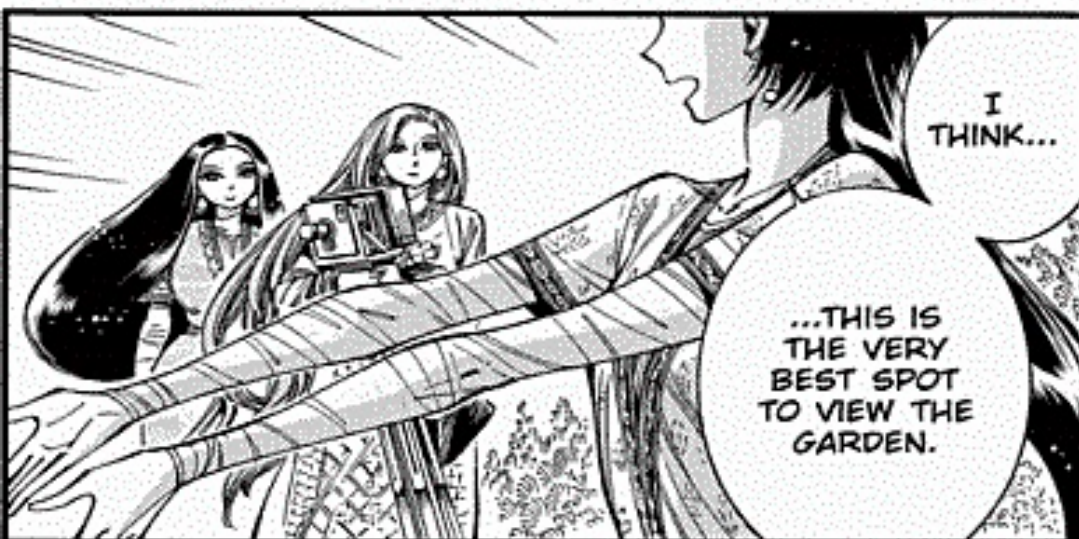
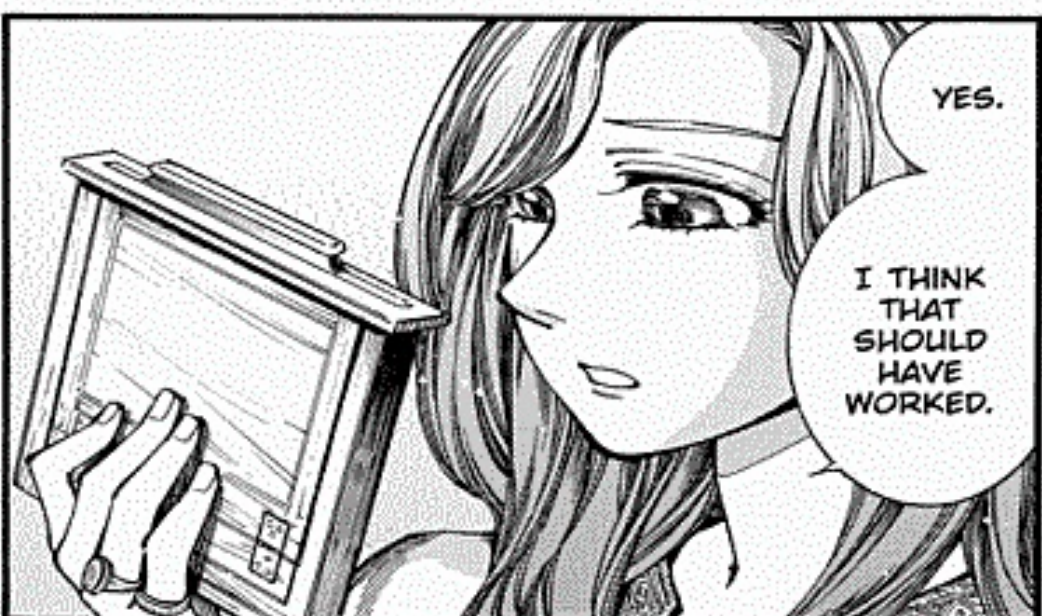
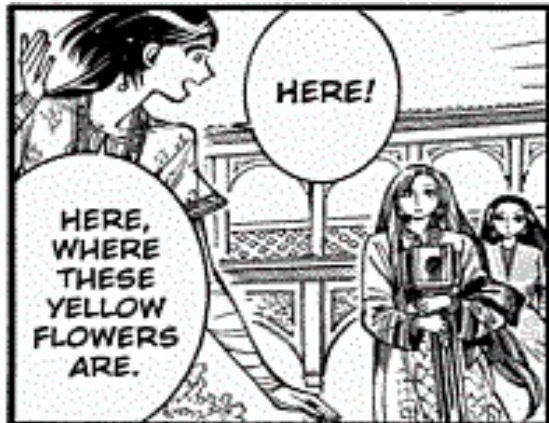
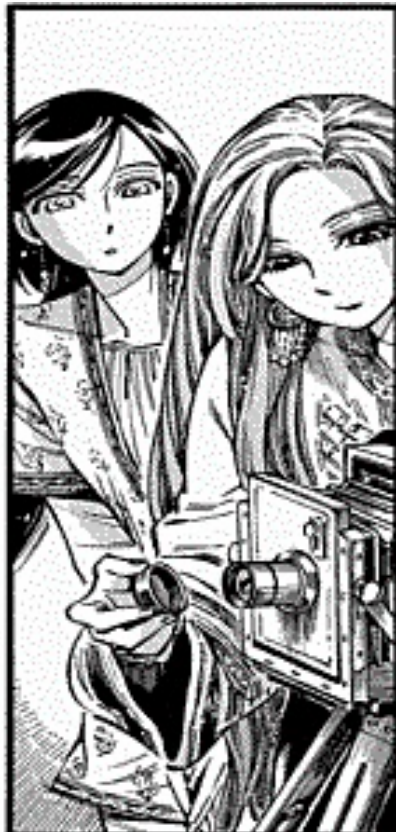
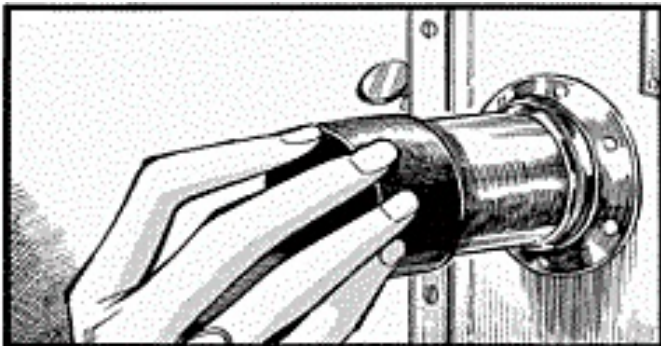


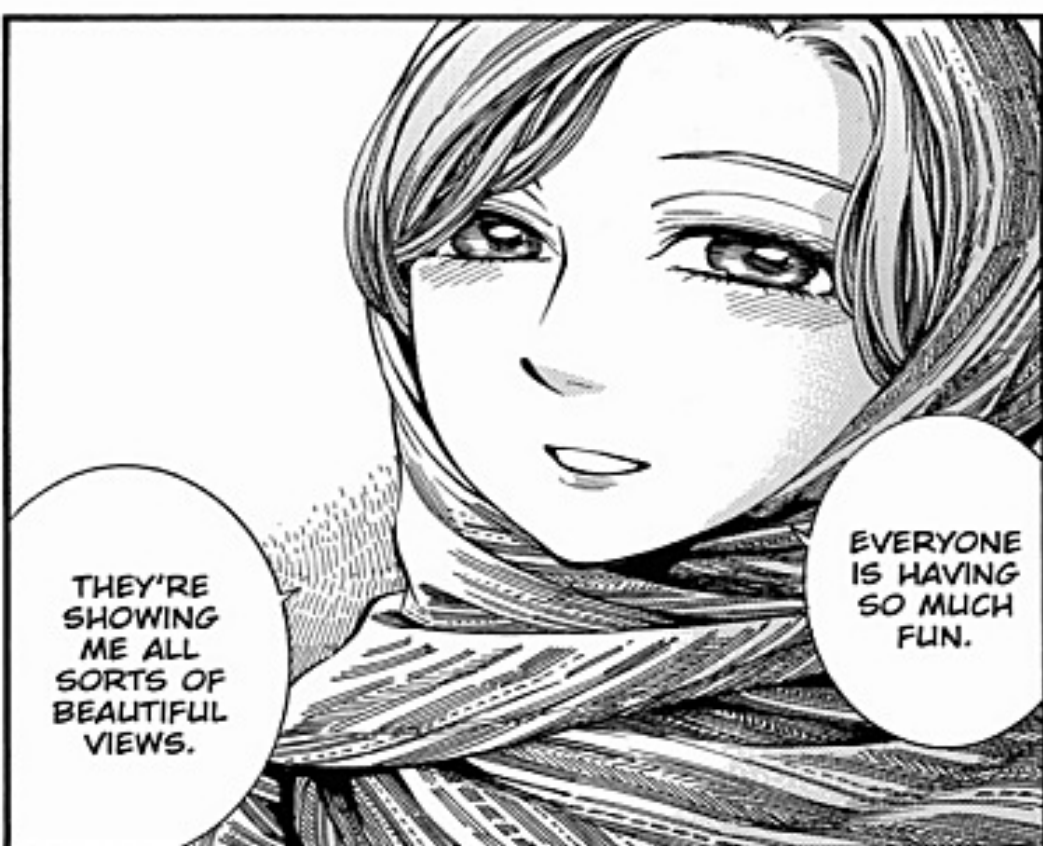
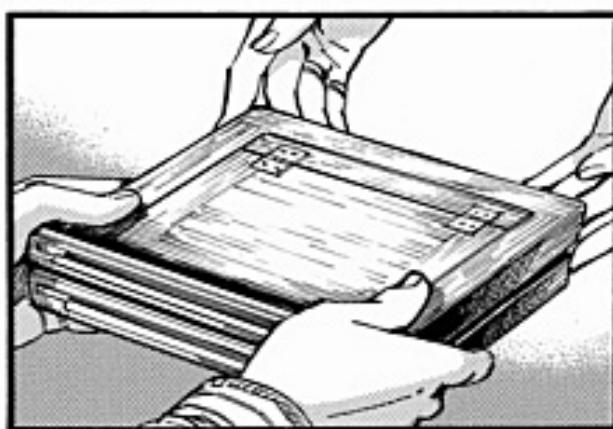












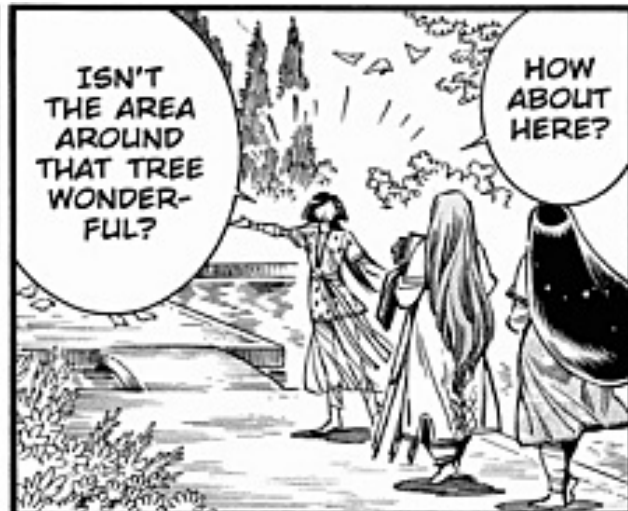


YES,
ME
TOO.



I WONDER
HOW THESE
WILL TURN
OUT.

I'D
LIKE TO
SEE THE
FINISHED
PHOTO-
GRAPHS.



ISN'T
THE AREA
AROUND
THAT TREE
WONDER-
FUL?

HOW
ABOUT
HERE?



.....
I HEAR
MOVING
CREATURES
CAN BE
HARD TO
CAPTURE.

WHAT
ABOUT
THESE
BIRDS?



UM...

LET'S
SEE...

WHAT,
ME?



WHAT
PLACE
DO YOU
LIKE
BEST?

WHEREVER
IS FINE!



UM...

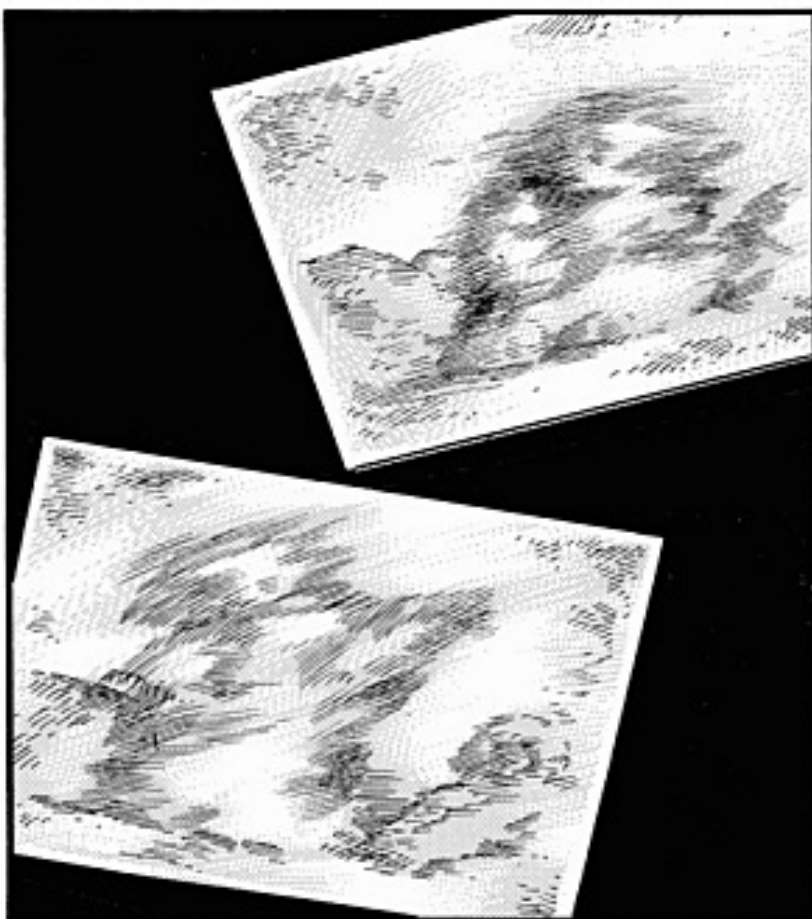
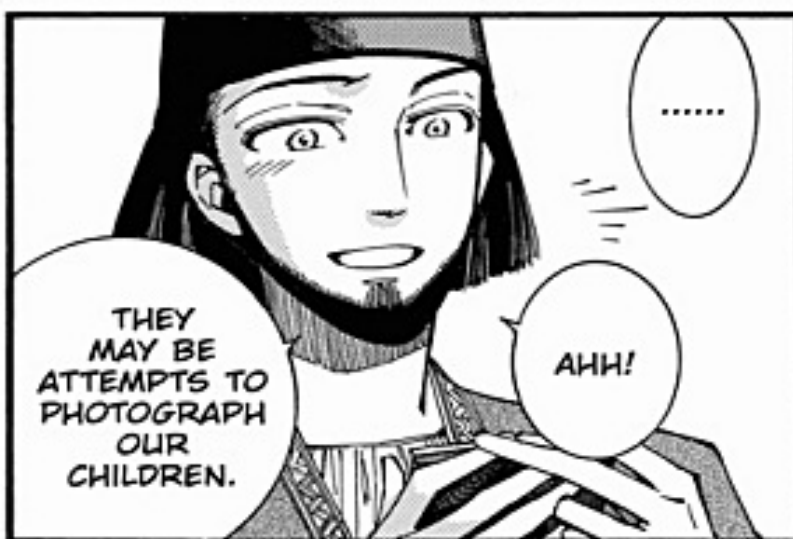
.....

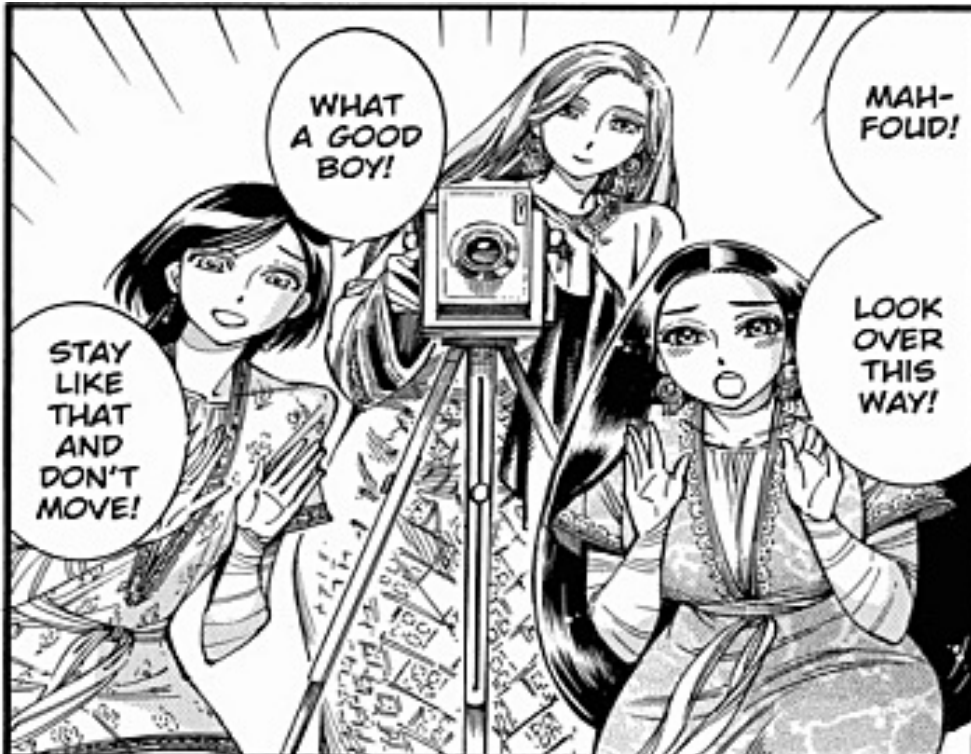


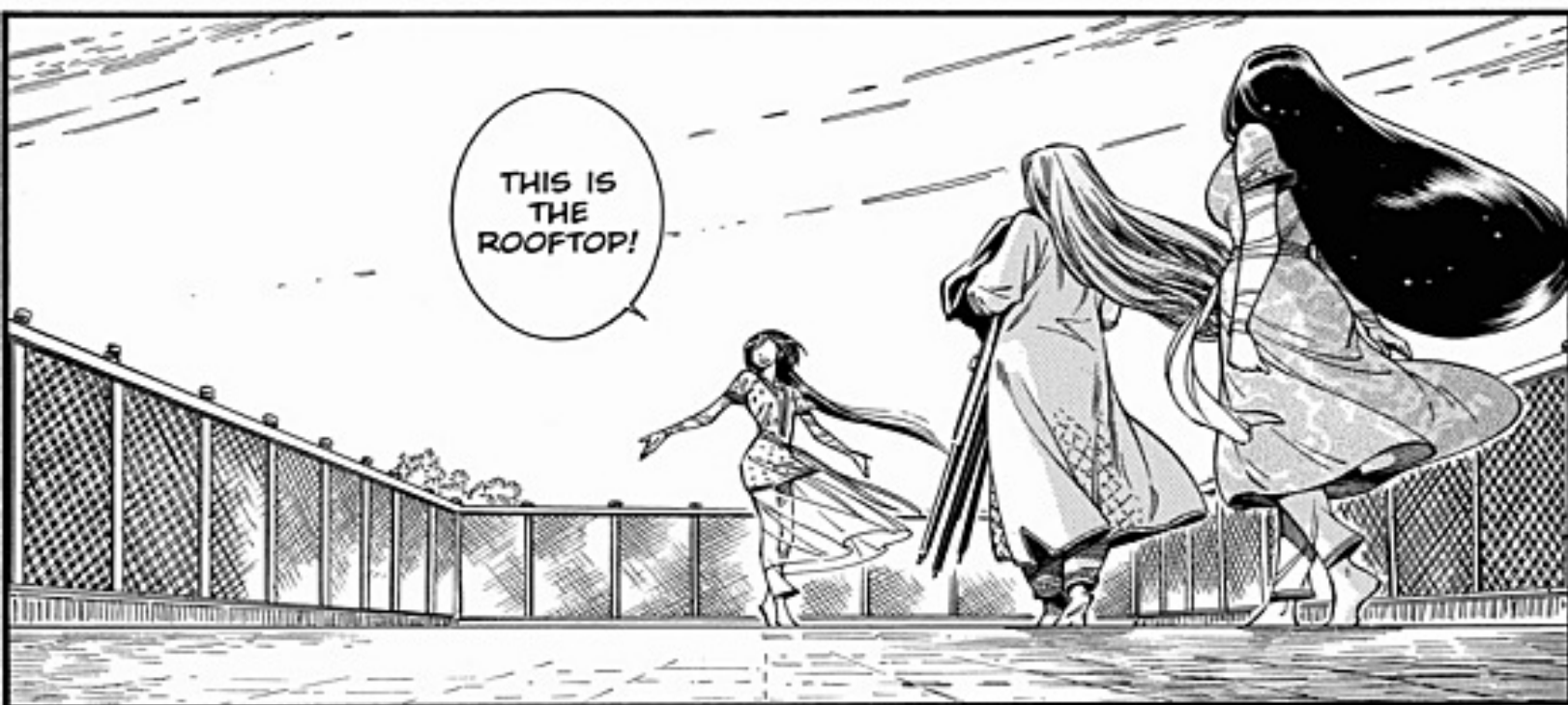
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

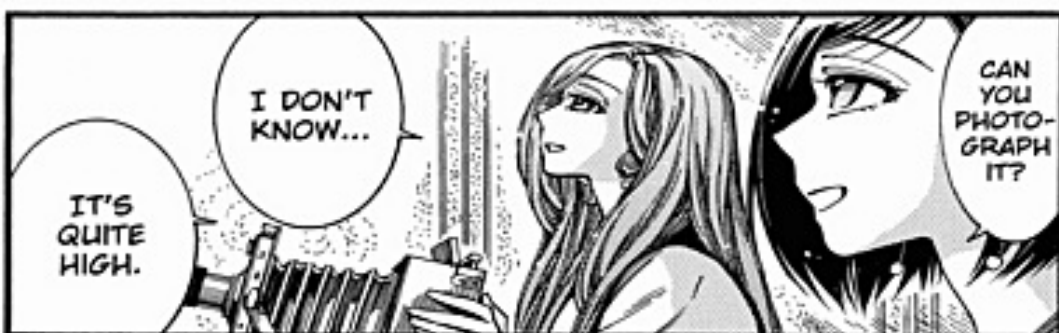
SAY,
SHERINE!

WHAT
PLACE
DO YOU
WANT
TO PHOTO-
GRAPH?









IT'S
QUITE
HIGH.

I DON'T
KNOW...

CAN
YOU
PHOTO-
GRAPH
IT?



WE WERE
TRAVELING
ALL OVER,
VISITING
THE TOMBS
OF VARIOUS
HOLY
MEN...

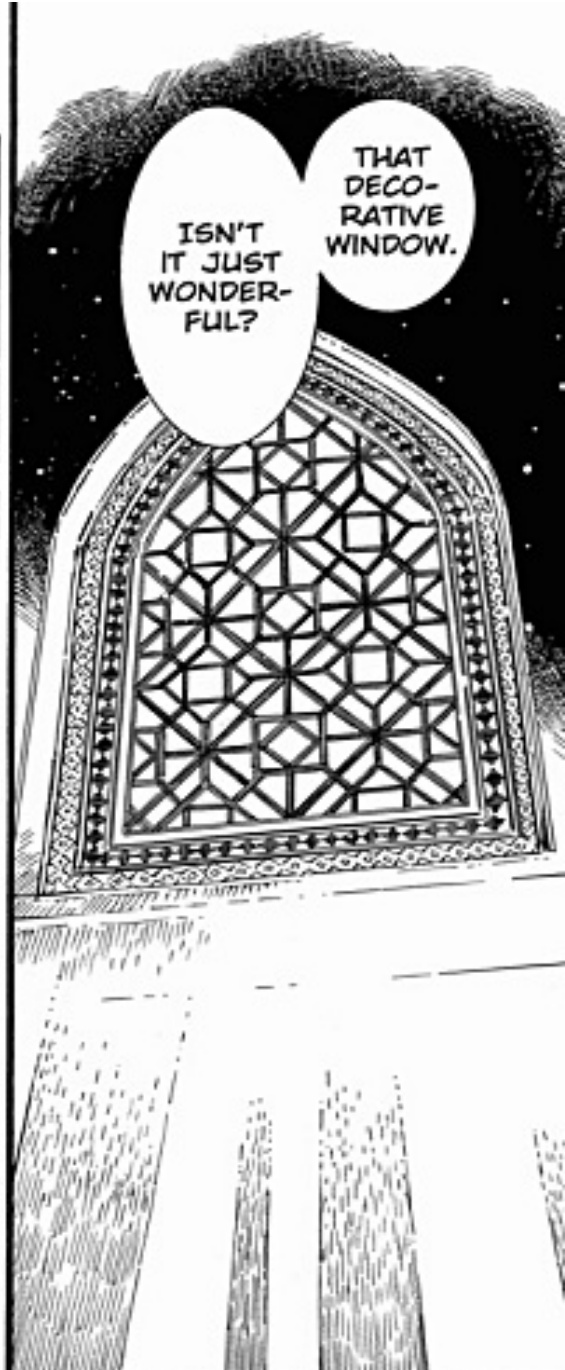
JUST
WHEN WE
FOUND A
FAMILIAR
ROAD, WE
SPOTTED
A WINDOW
MAKER.

...WHEN
WE GOT
LOST IN AN
UNFAMILIAR
TOWN.



...WE
FOUND IT
ON OUR
HONEY-
MOON.

AFTER I
MARRIED
MY HUS-
BAND...



ISN'T
IT JUST
WONDER-
FUL?

THAT
DECO-
RATIVE
WINDOW.



THIS IS
WHAT MY
HUS-
BAND...

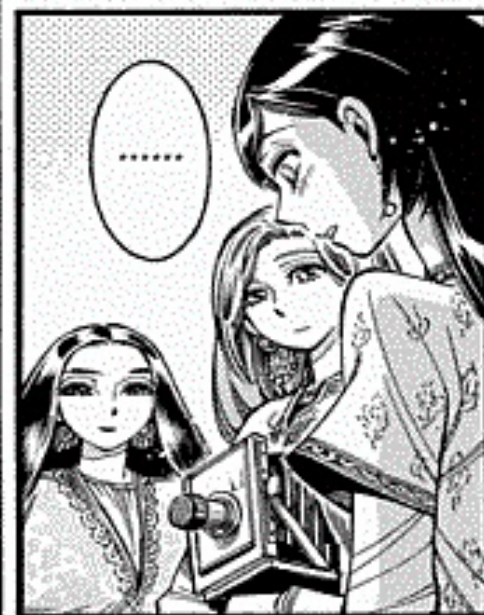
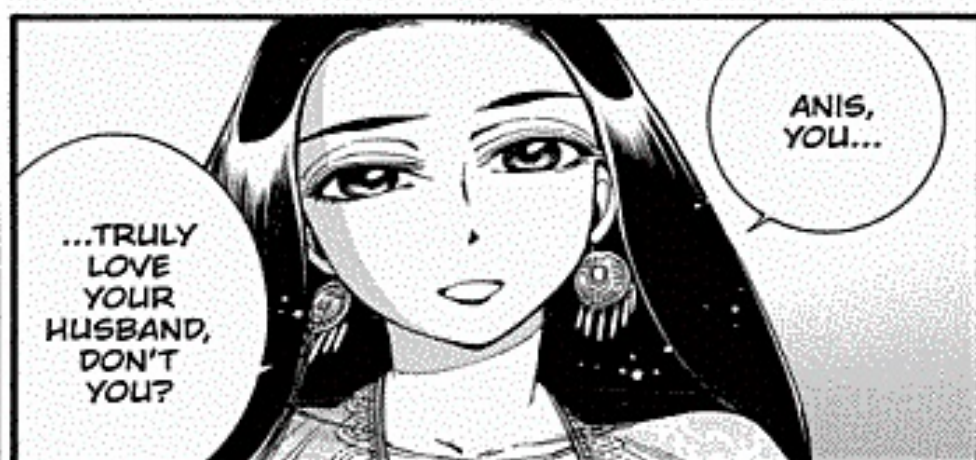
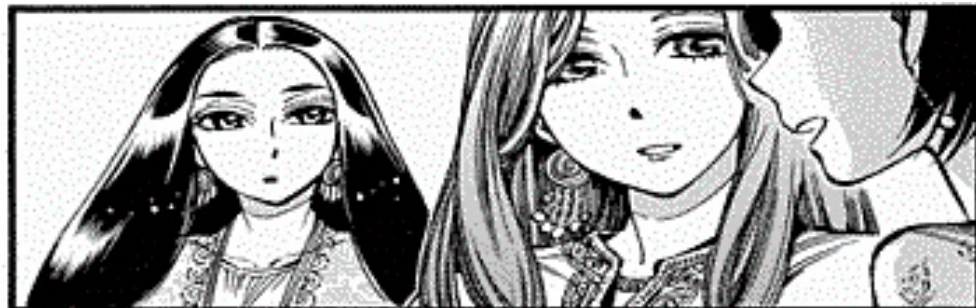


THAT'S
WHERE
MY HUS-
BAND...

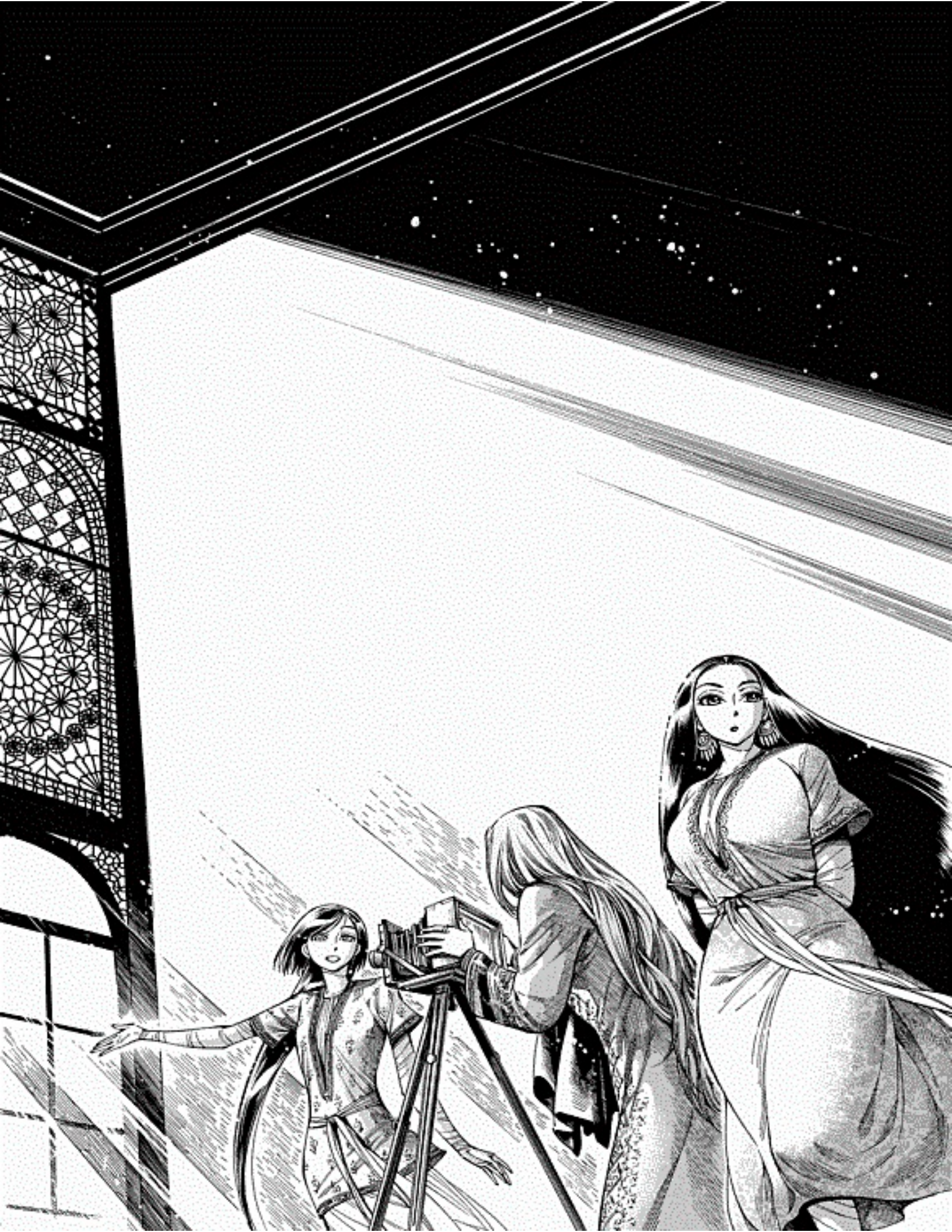


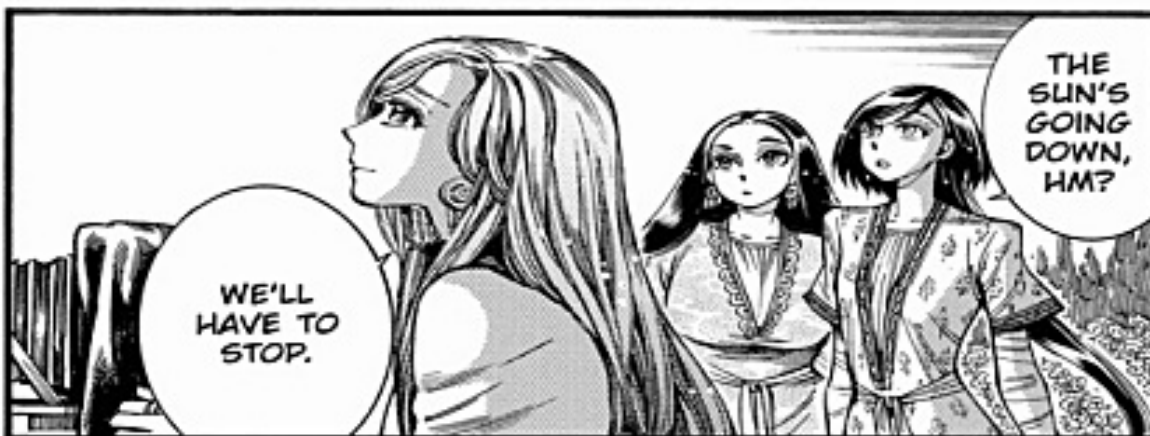
AT THE TIME,
I THOUGHT
MY HUSBAND
WAS CONFIDENT
THAT HE
COULD DO
ANYTHING...

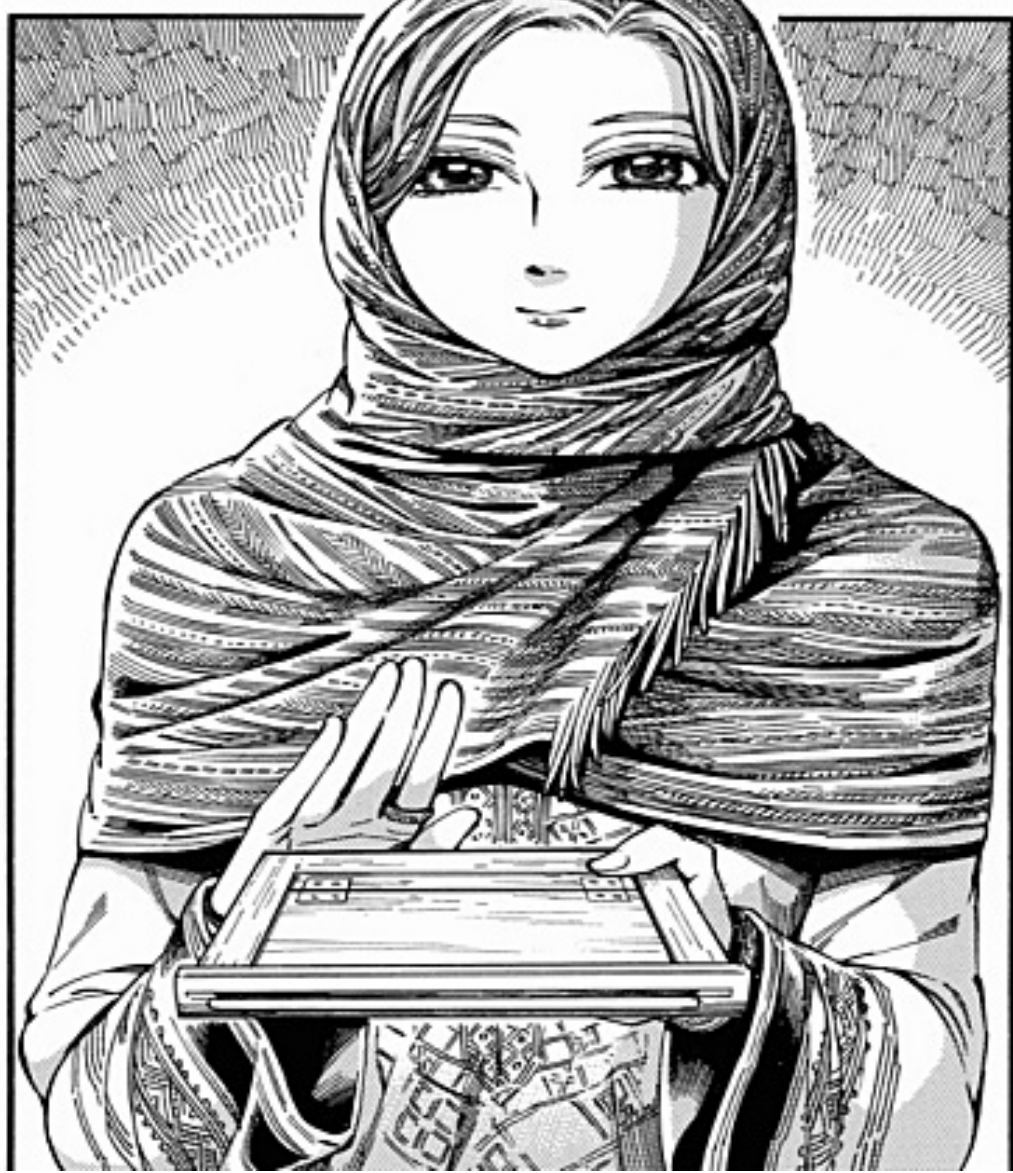
...BUT
LATER, HE TOLD
ME HE WAS
WORRIED SICK,
WONDERING
HOW TO FIND
OUR WAY.

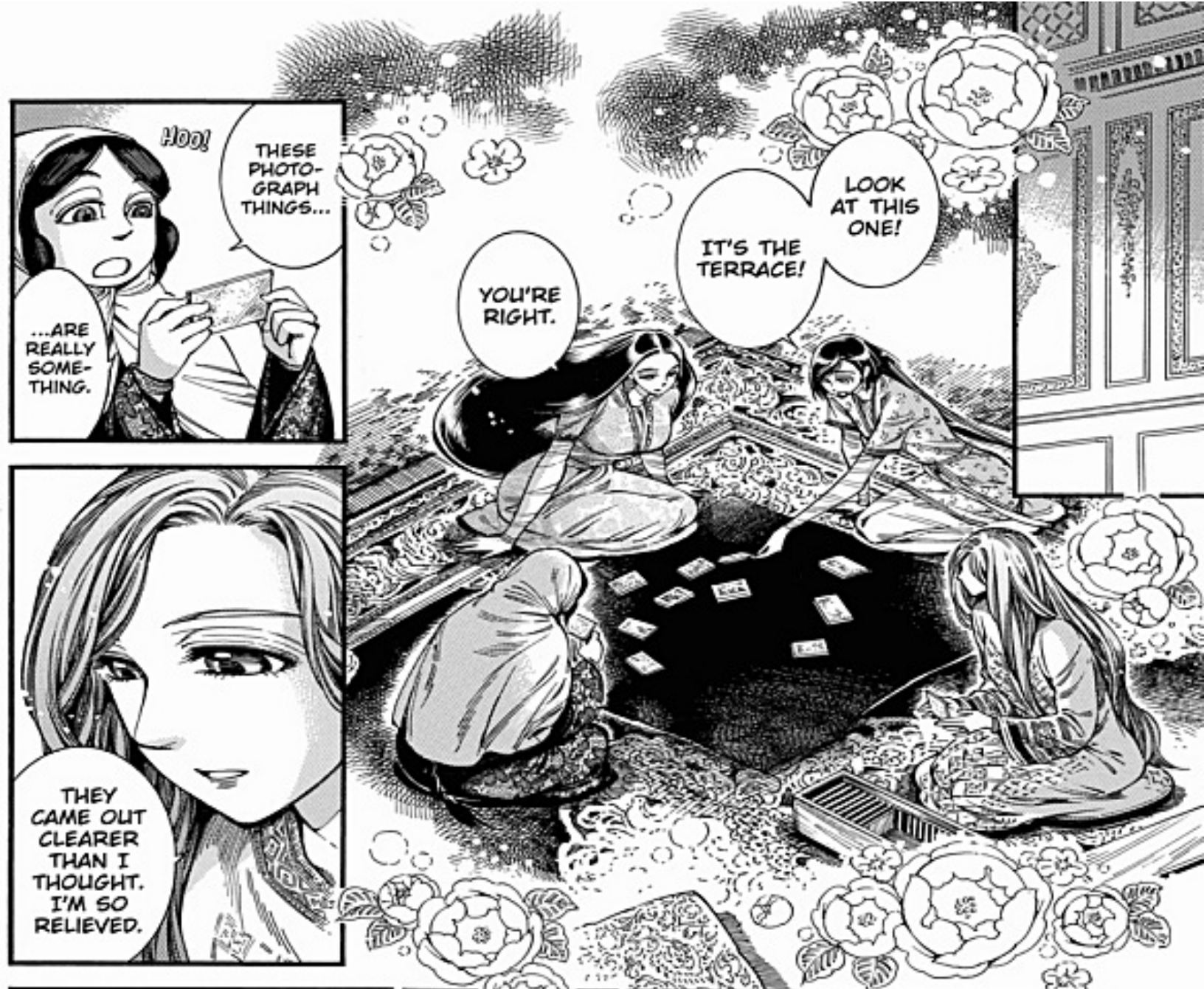












Hoo!

THESE PHOTO-GRAPH THINGS...

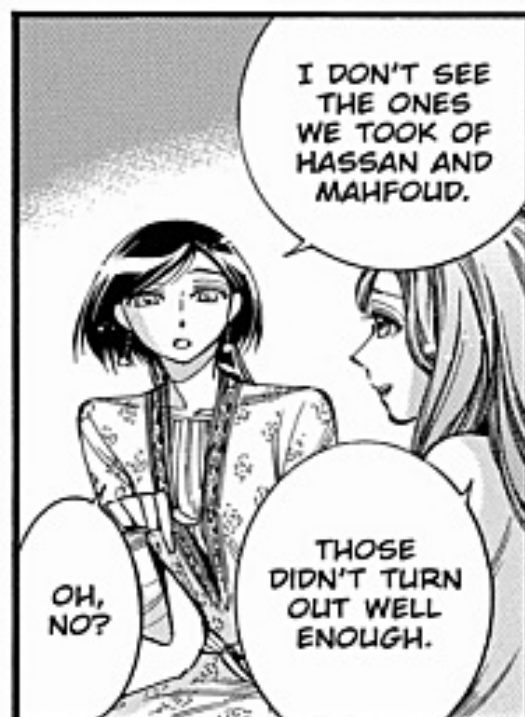
...ARE REALLY SOME-THING.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT'S THE TERRACE!

LOOK AT THIS ONE!

THEY CAME OUT CLEARER THAN I THOUGHT. I'M SO RELIEVED.



I DON'T SEE THE ONES WE TOOK OF HASSAN AND MAHFOLD.

OH, NO?

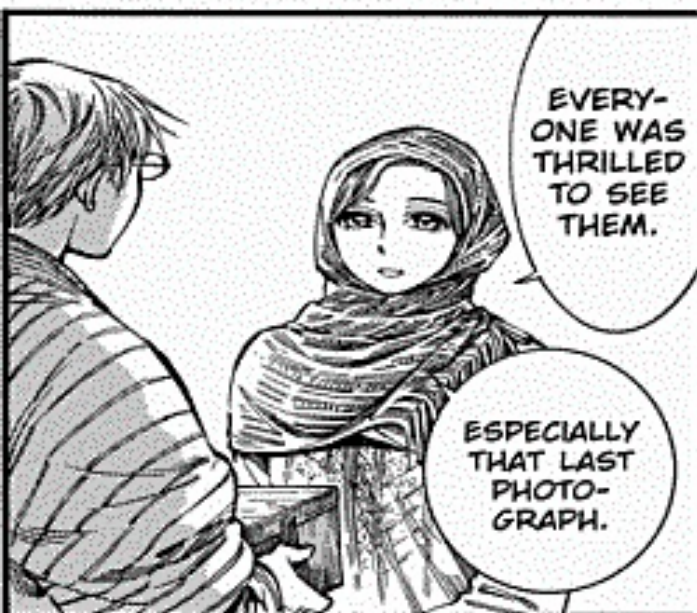
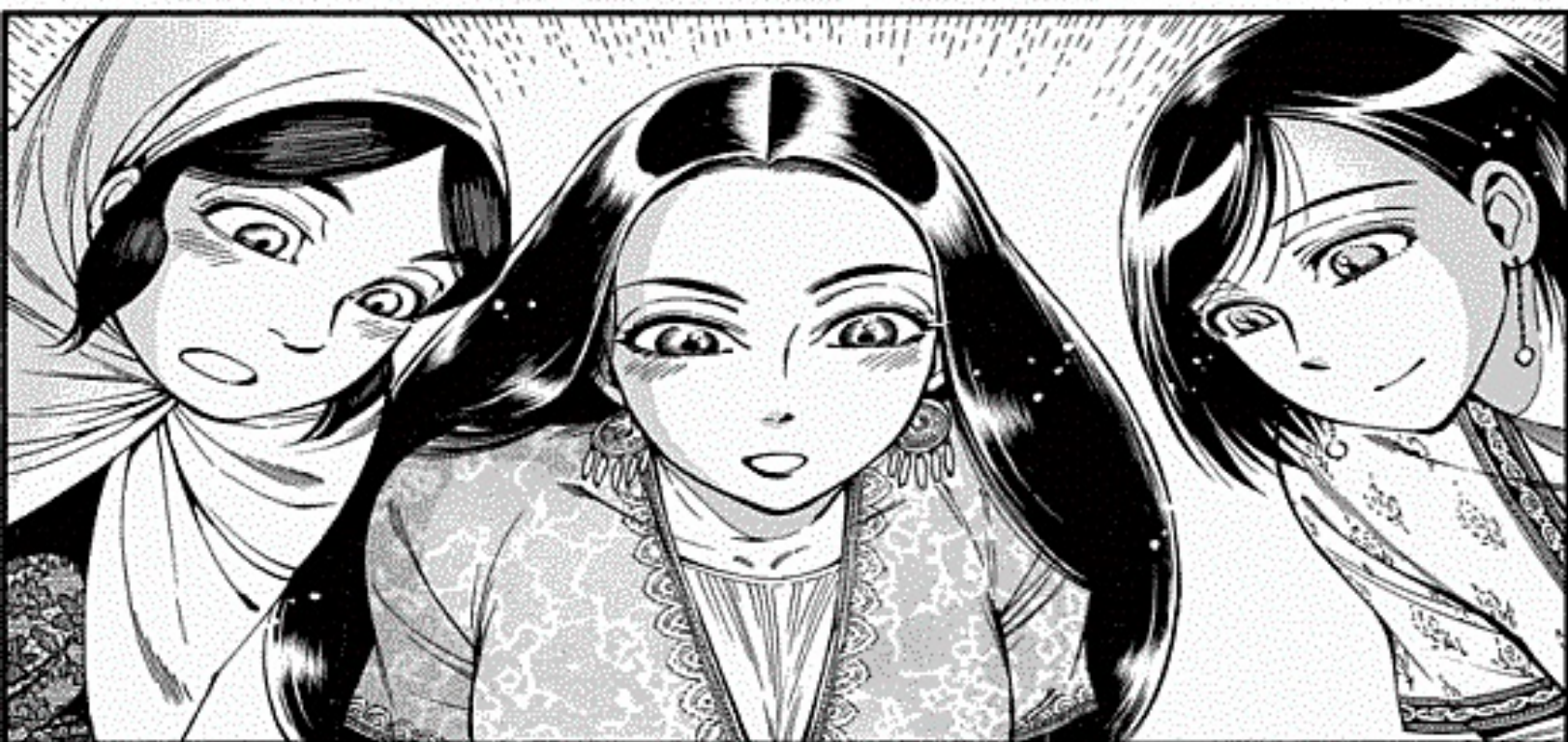
THOSE DIDN'T TURN OUT WELL ENOUGH.

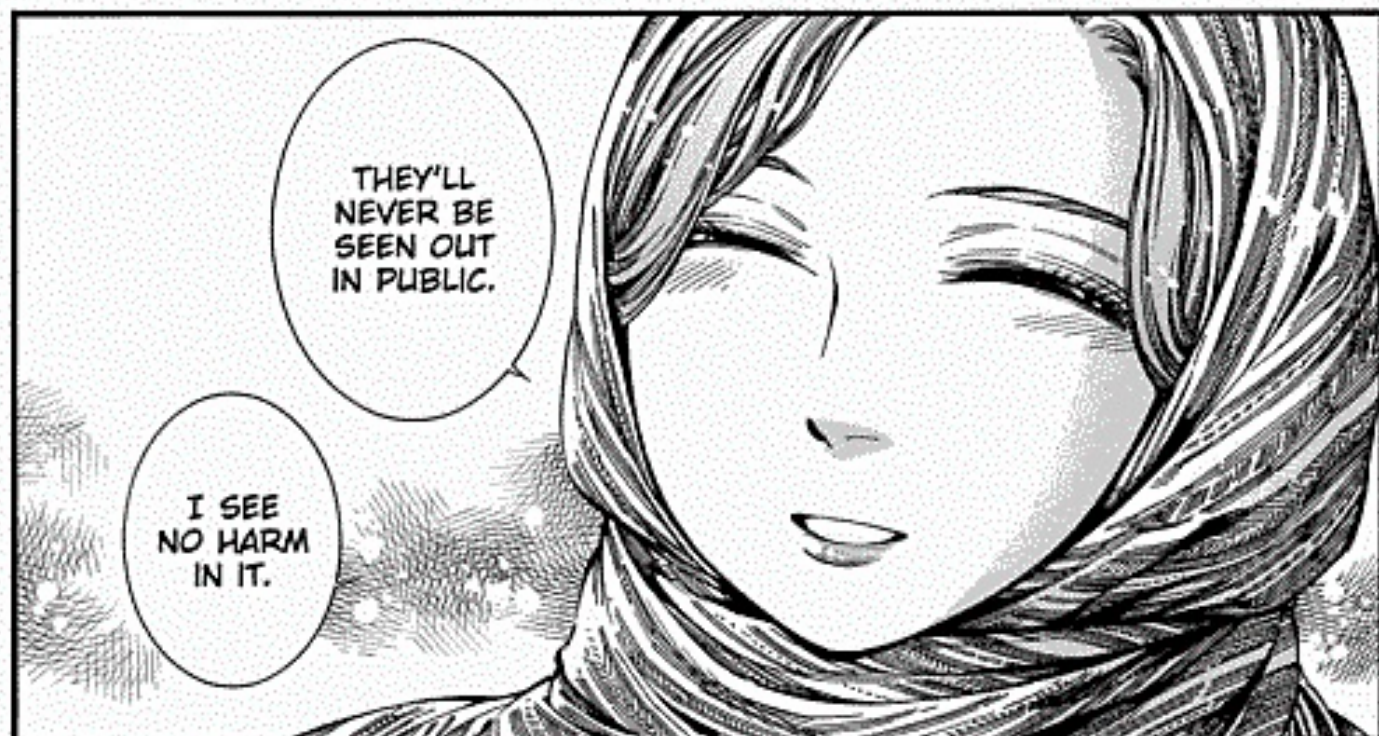


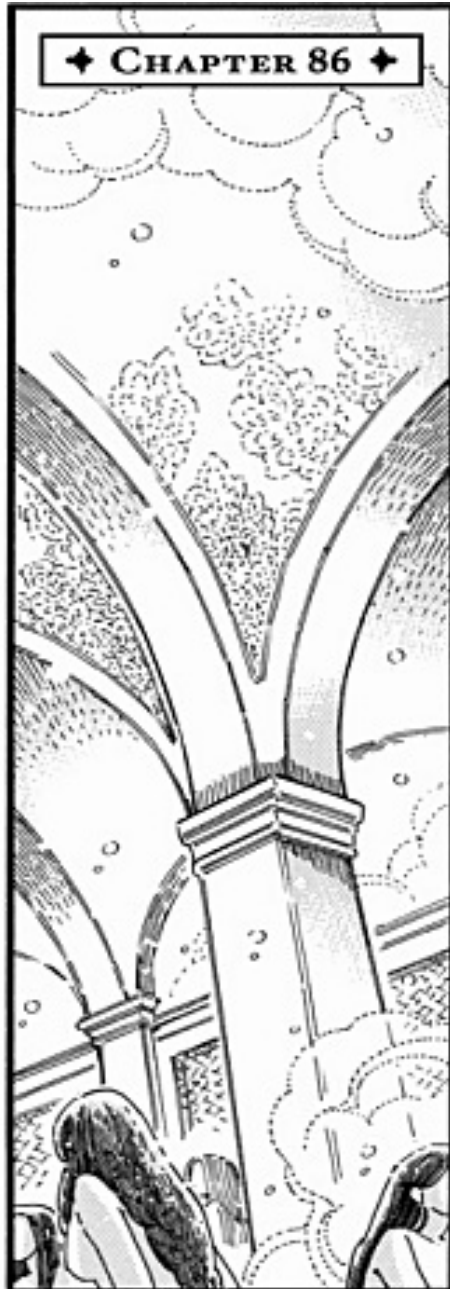
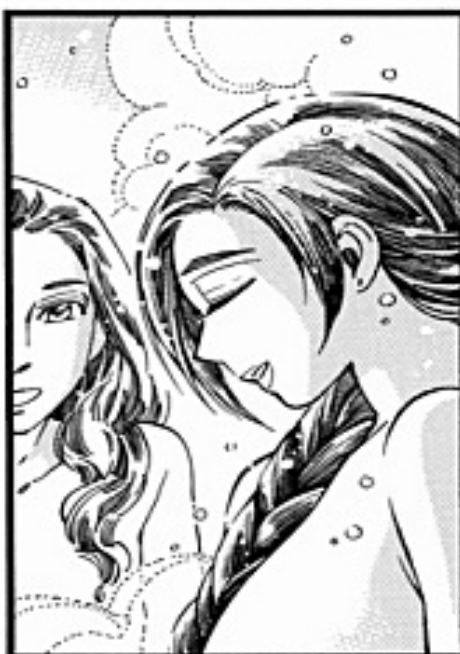
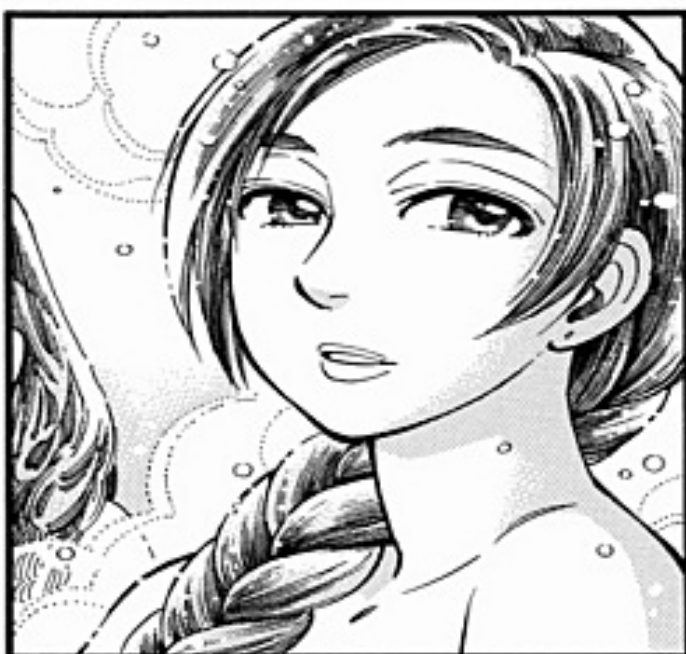
AS IF IT ISN'T EVEN OUR HOUSE.

IT'S SO ODD LOOKING AT THEM LIKE THIS.





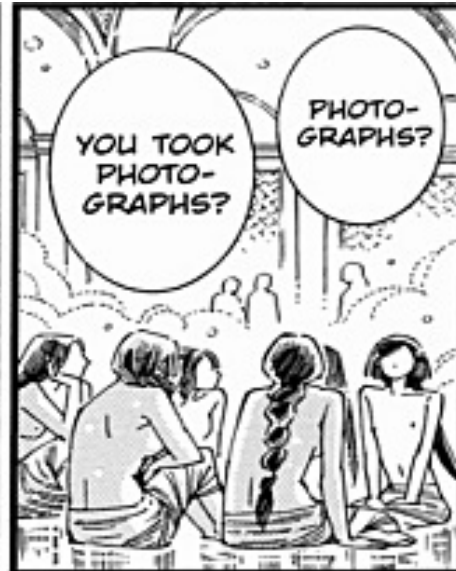






YOU
GOT IT!

AREN'T PHOTO-
GRAPHS
KINDA LIKE
PAINTINGS?



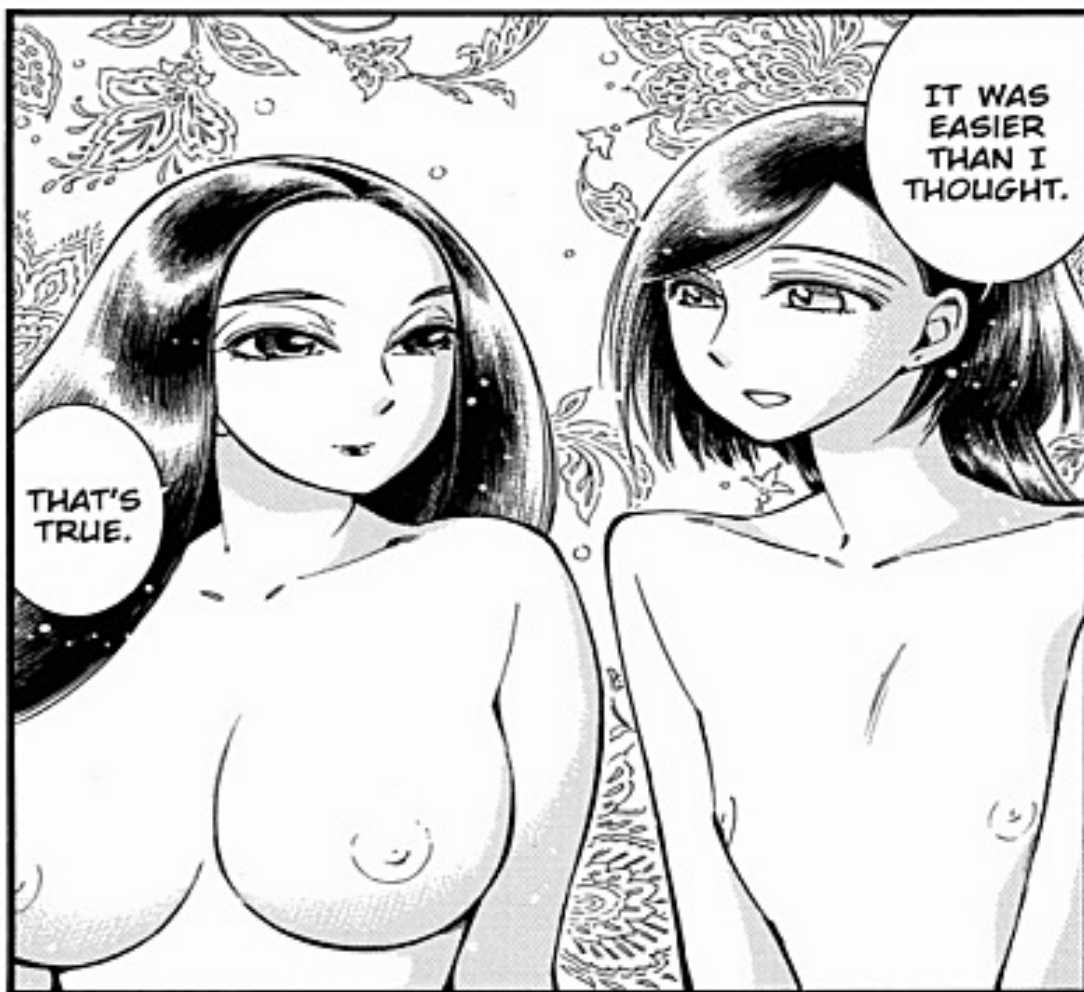
YOU TOOK PHOTO-
GRAPHS?

PHOTO-
GRAPHS?



BUT PHOTO-
GRAPHS
AREN'T
VERY
CLEAR,
ARE
THEY?

THESE
WERE
REALLY
CLEAR!



THAT'S
TRUE.

IT WAS
EASIER
THAN I
THOUGHT.



...BUT
SHE WAS
SO NICE.

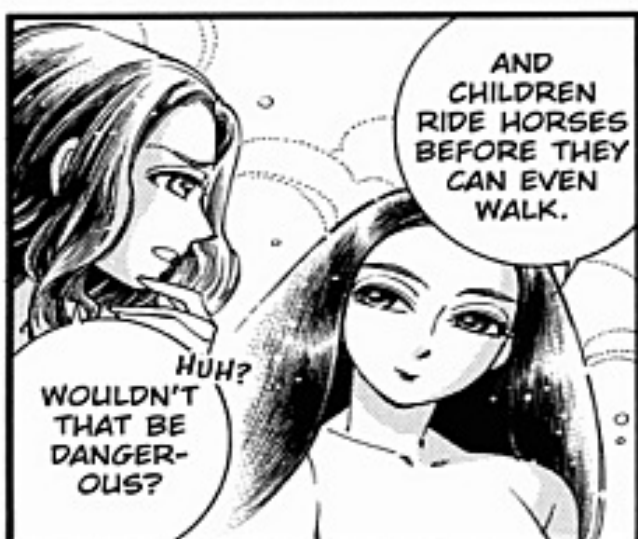
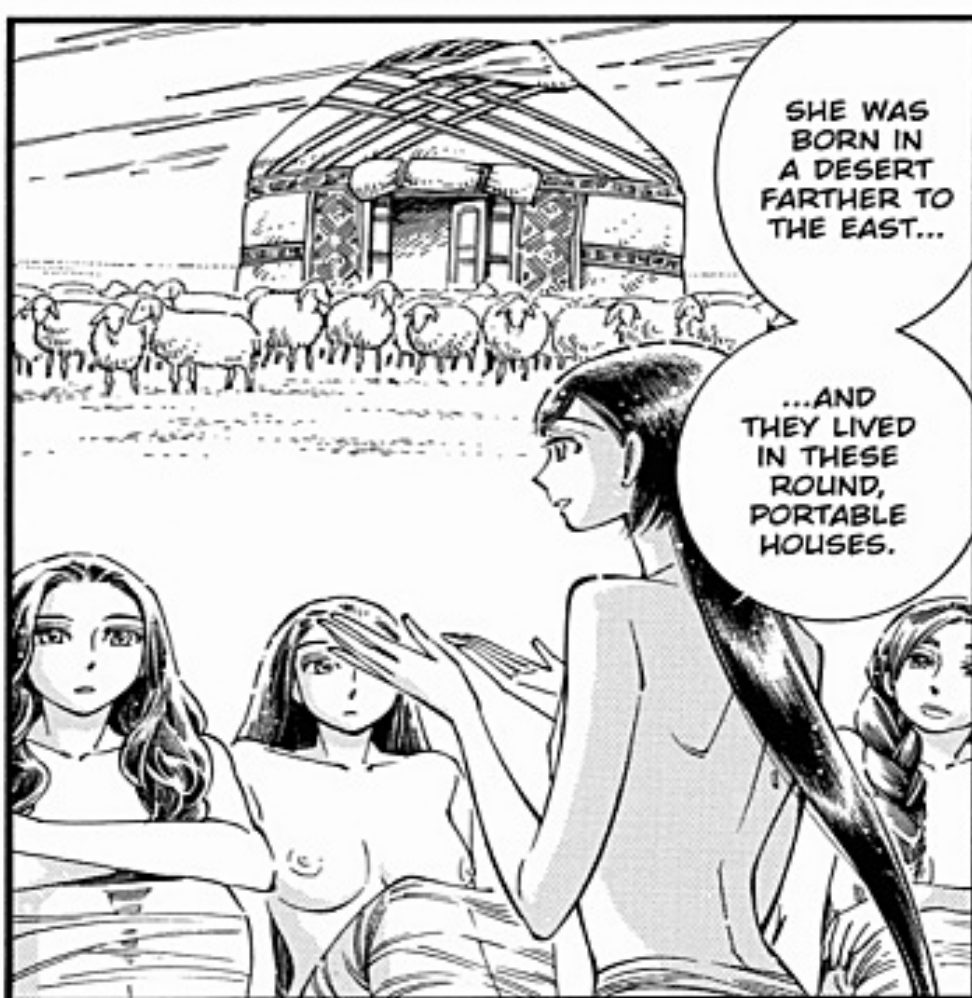
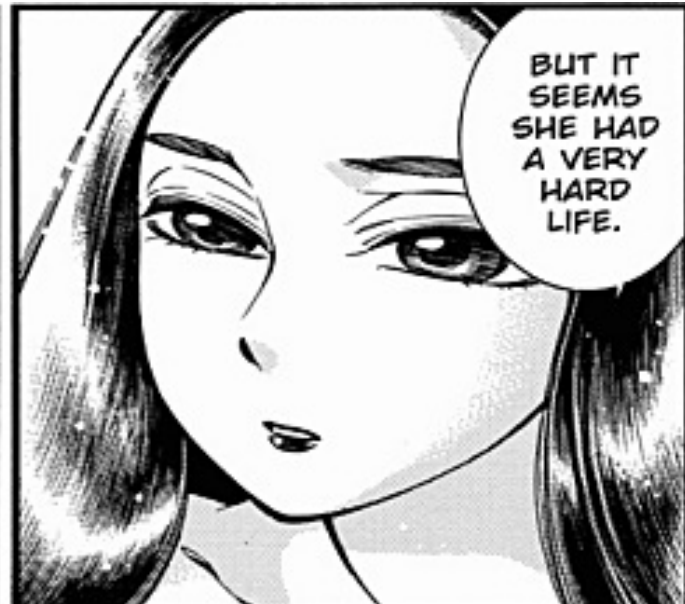
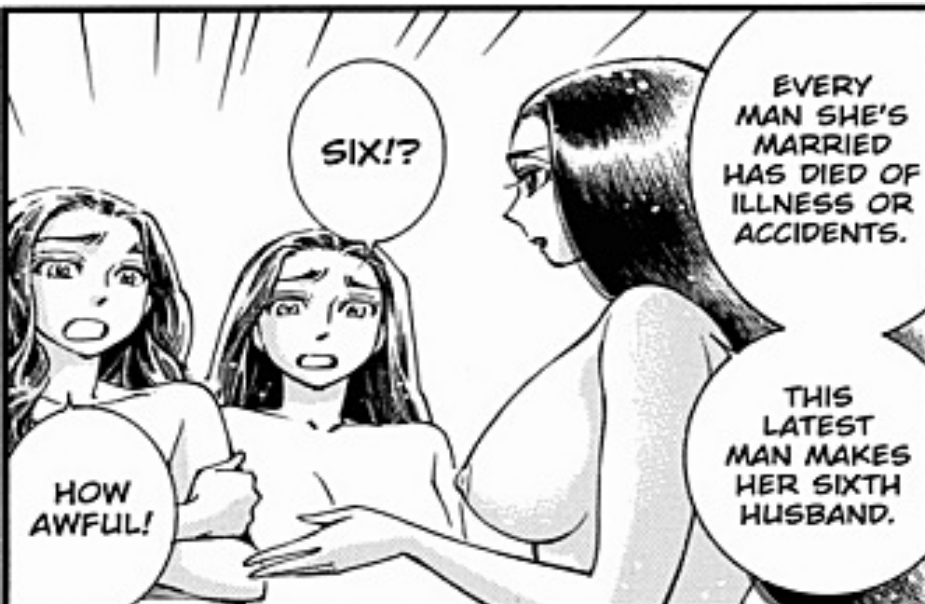
THEY
SEEMED
TO BE
IN A
HURRY...

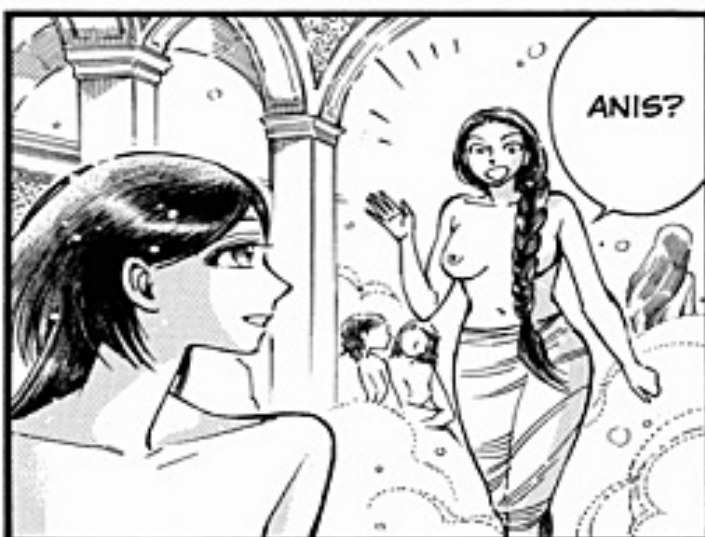
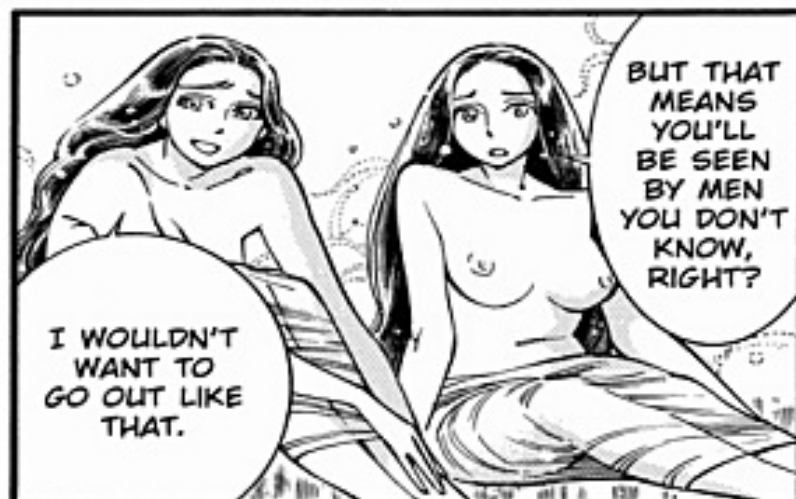
...SO
THEY'VE
ALREADY
LEFT ON
THEIR
JOURNEY...

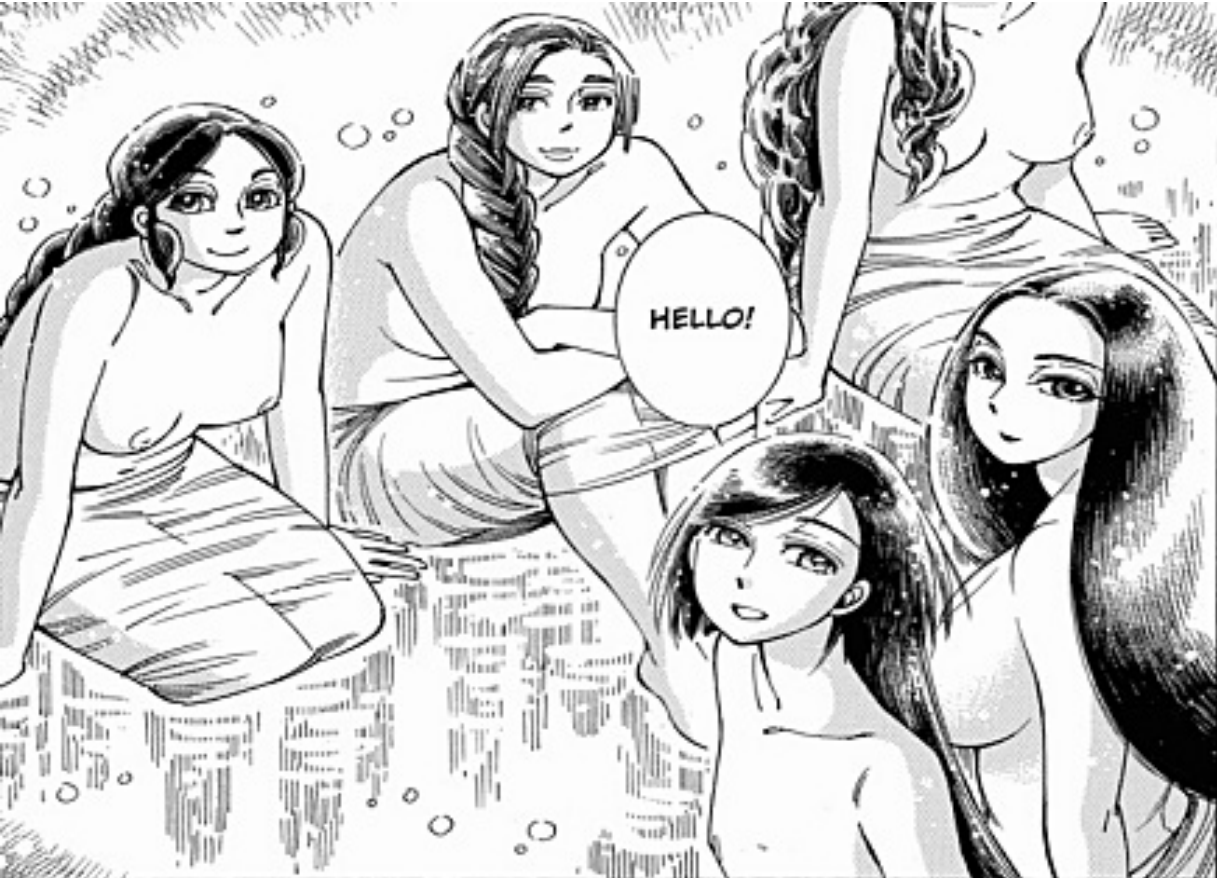


OH?

I CERTAINLY
DIDN'T THINK
THEY WOULD
TURN OUT
AS GOOD AS
THEY DID!



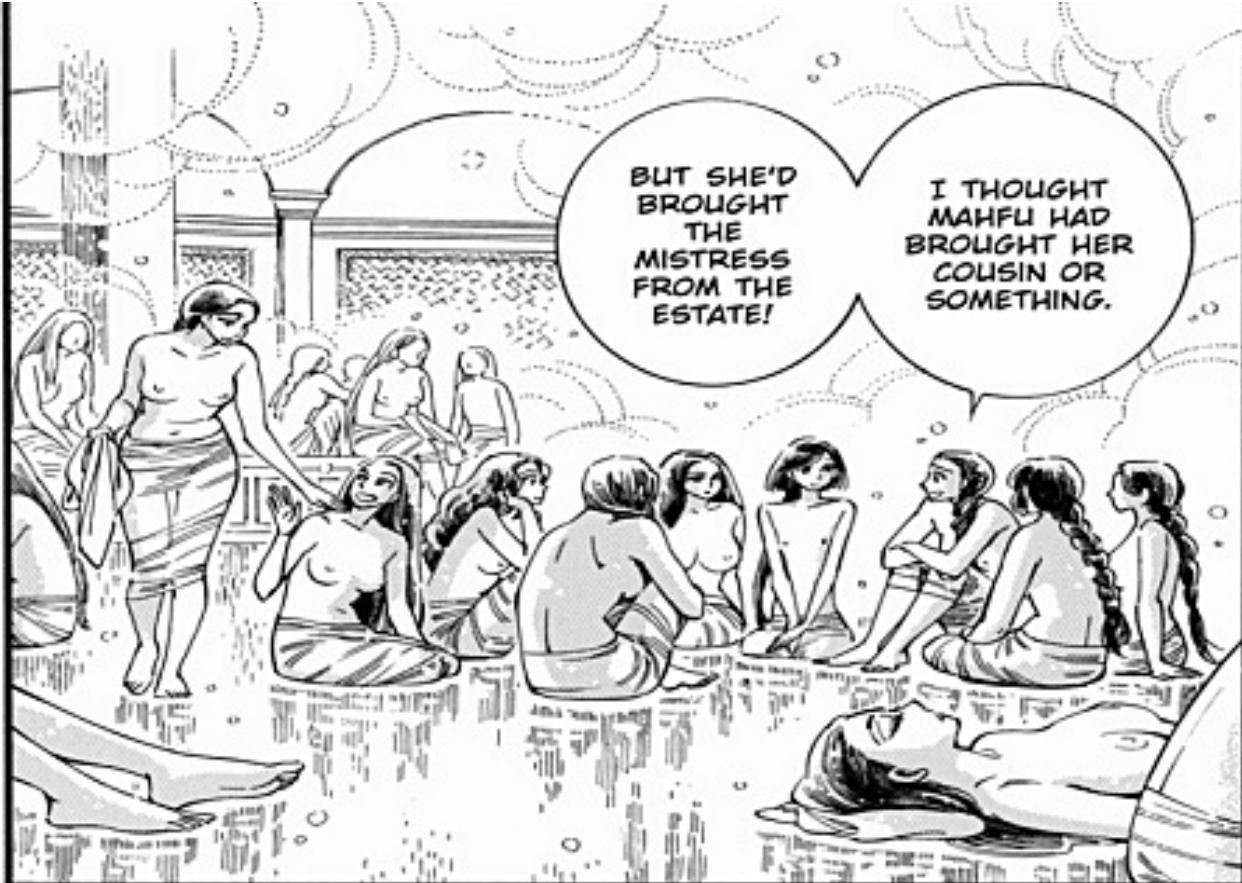








CHAPTER 86
LONG
FRIENDSHIPS

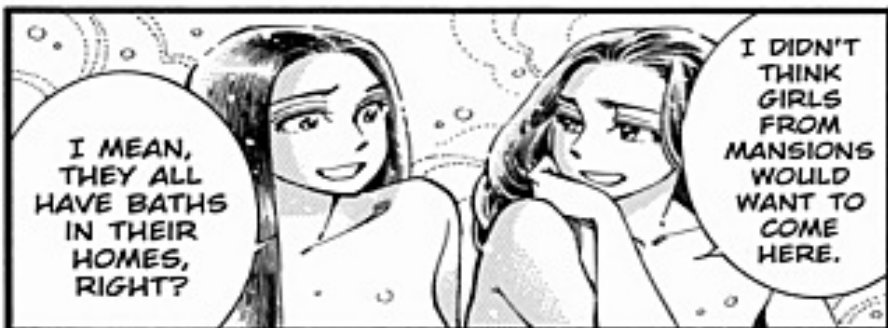


BUT SHE'D
BROUGHT
THE
MISTRESS
FROM THE
ESTATE!

I THOUGHT
MAHFU HAD
BROUGHT HER
COUSIN OR
SOMETHING.



WHEN
YOU FIRST
CAME HERE,
I WAS
SHOCKED.



I MEAN,
THEY ALL
HAVE BATHS
IN THEIR
HOMES,
RIGHT?

I DIDN'T
THINK
GIRLS FROM
MANSIONS
WOULD
WANT TO
COME HERE.



WELL,
NO,
BUT...

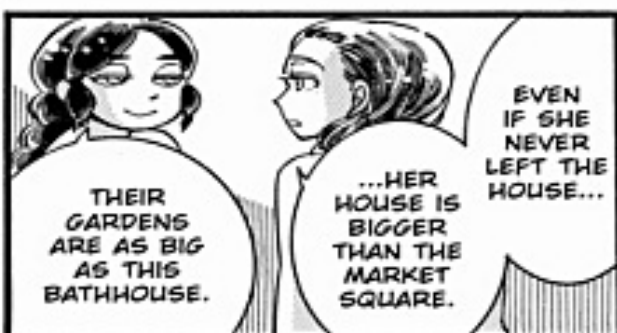
NOTHING
WRONG
WITH IT,
RIGHT?

IT WASN'T
BREAKING
ANY RULES.



IT
WAS THE
FIRST
TIME I'D
BEEN IN
A PLACE
LIKE
THIS.

I WAS
NEVER
ALLOWED
TO LEAVE
THE HOUSE
BEFORE.



THEIR
GARDENS
ARE AS BIG
AS THIS
BATHHOUSE.

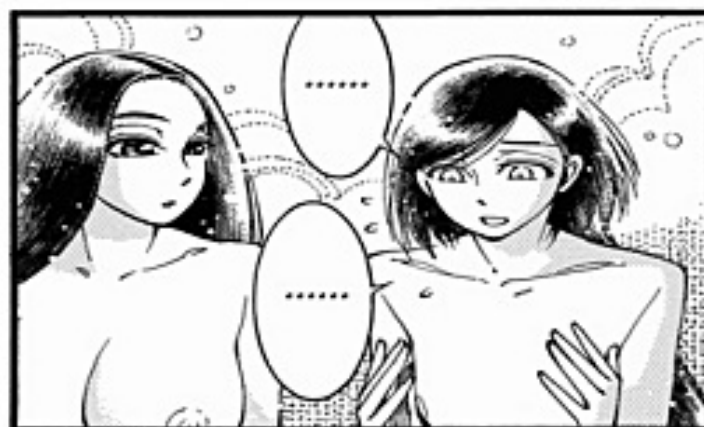
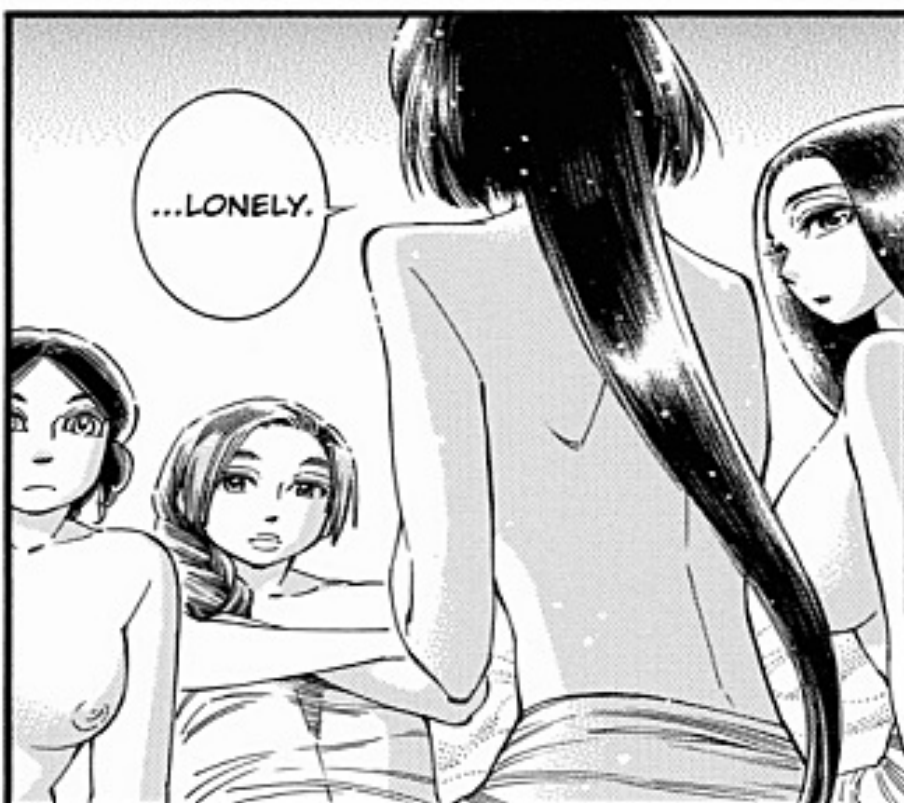
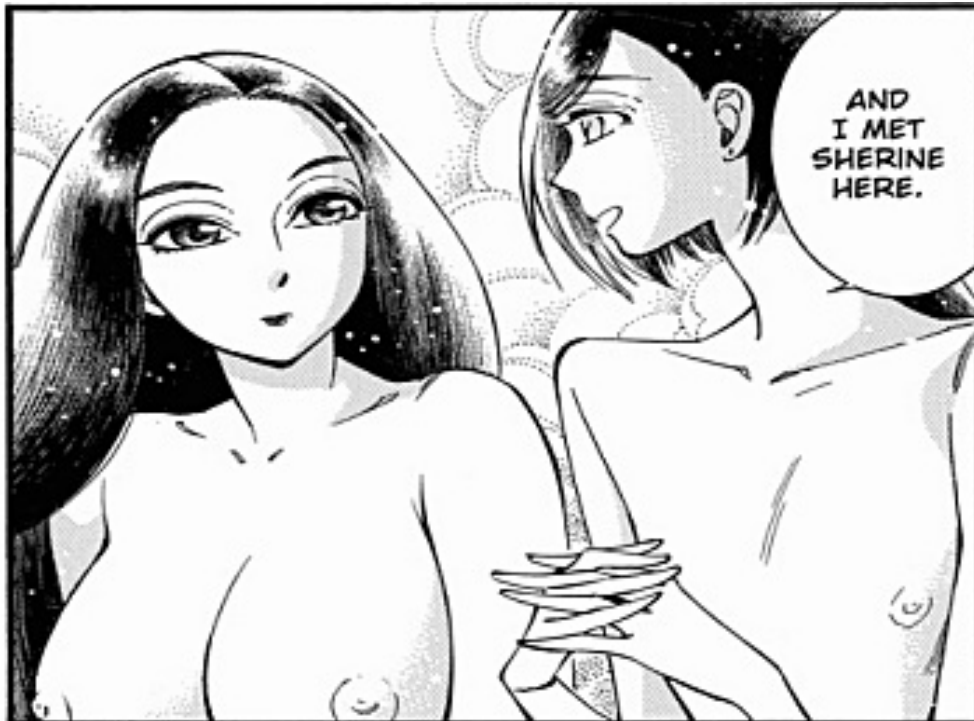
...HER
HOUSE IS
BIGGER
THAN THE
MARKET
SQUARE.

EVEN
IF SHE
NEVER
LEFT THE
HOUSE...



STILL...

...WHEN I
WAS FIRST
BROUGHT
HERE, I
WAS SO
HAPPY.





EVERYONE
AROUND
ME FELT
SO FAR
AWAY.

I WAS
HAPPY, BUT
I DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT WAS
WRONG.



YES.

I'M
SURE...

...IT WAS
LONELINESS.



THAT'S
TRUE.

.....



YOU SEE?
I WAS
RIGHT ALL
ALONG!

A PERSON
GOES
STRANGE
WHEN THEY'RE
LEFT ALL
ALONE.

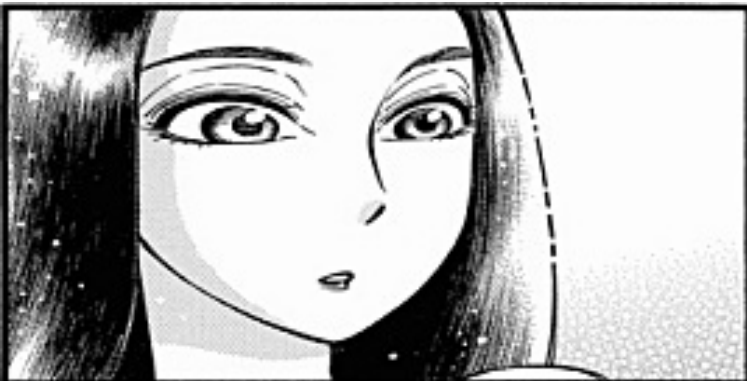


MY
HUSBAND
WOULD
OFTEN
TALK TO
ME...

...BUT
MOST DAYS,
HE WAS
AWAY FROM
HOME IN
THE AFTER-
NOON.

...OUR
CONVERSA-
TIONS WERE
DIFFERENT
FROM WHEN
I WAS
TALKING
TO OTHER
WOMEN.

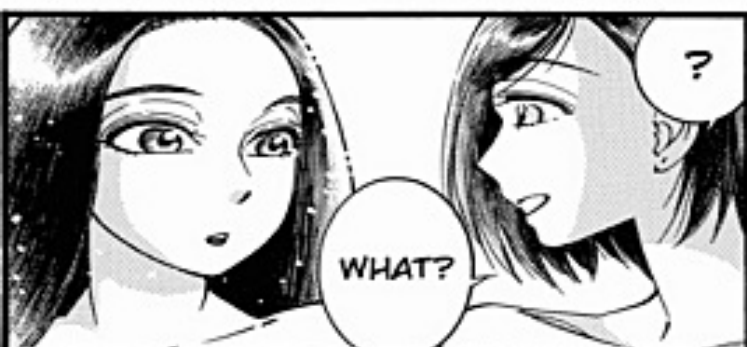
AND
THINKING
ABOUT IT
NOW...



I HAD
NEVER BEEN
INTRODUCED
TO MANY
PEOPLE...

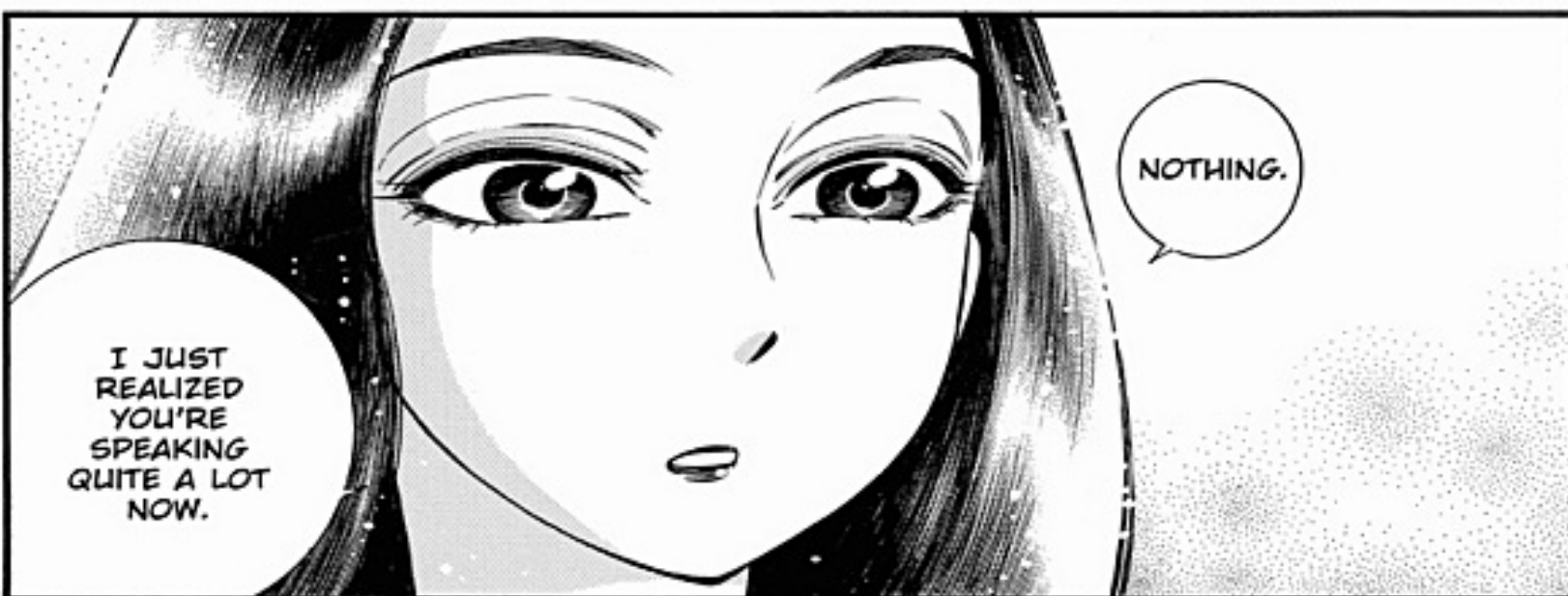
IT'S
TRUE.

...SO
I JUST
NEVER
NOTICED.



WHAT?

?



I JUST
REALIZED
YOU'RE
SPEAKING
QUITE A LOT
NOW.

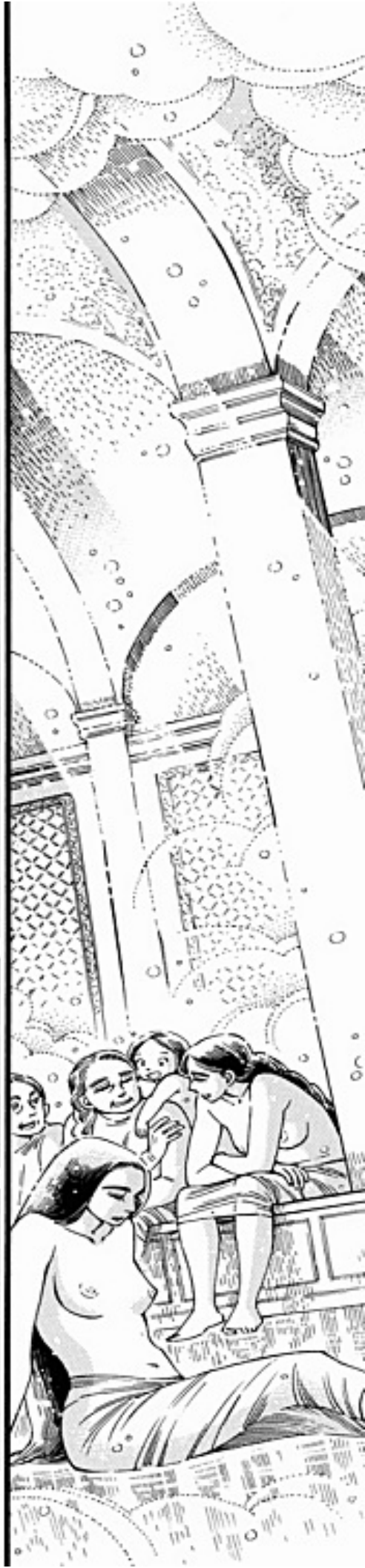
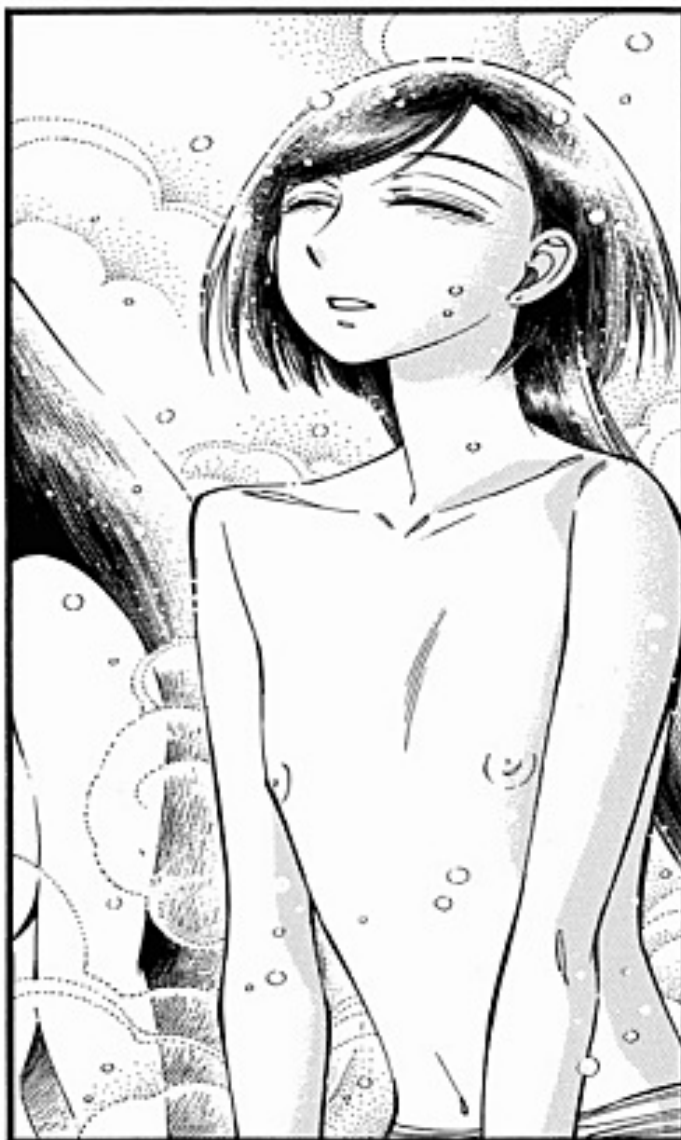
NOTHING.

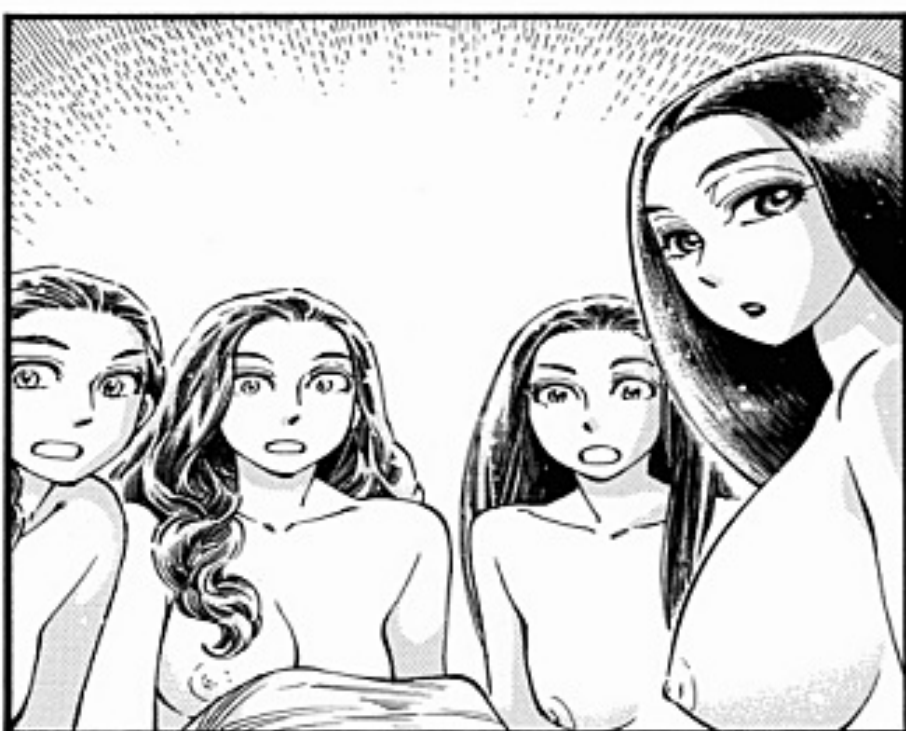
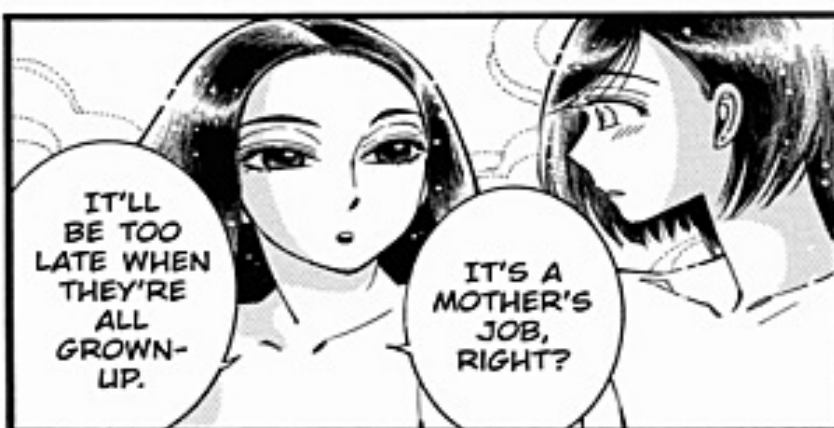
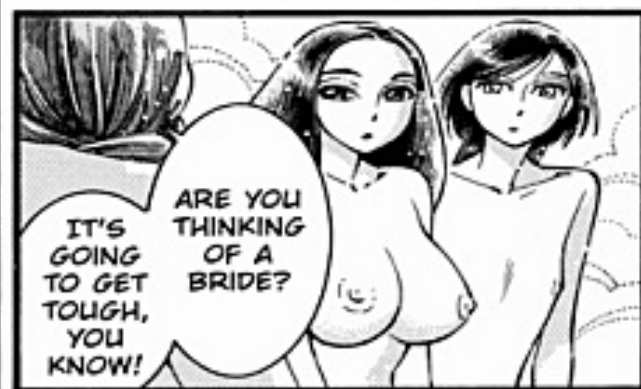
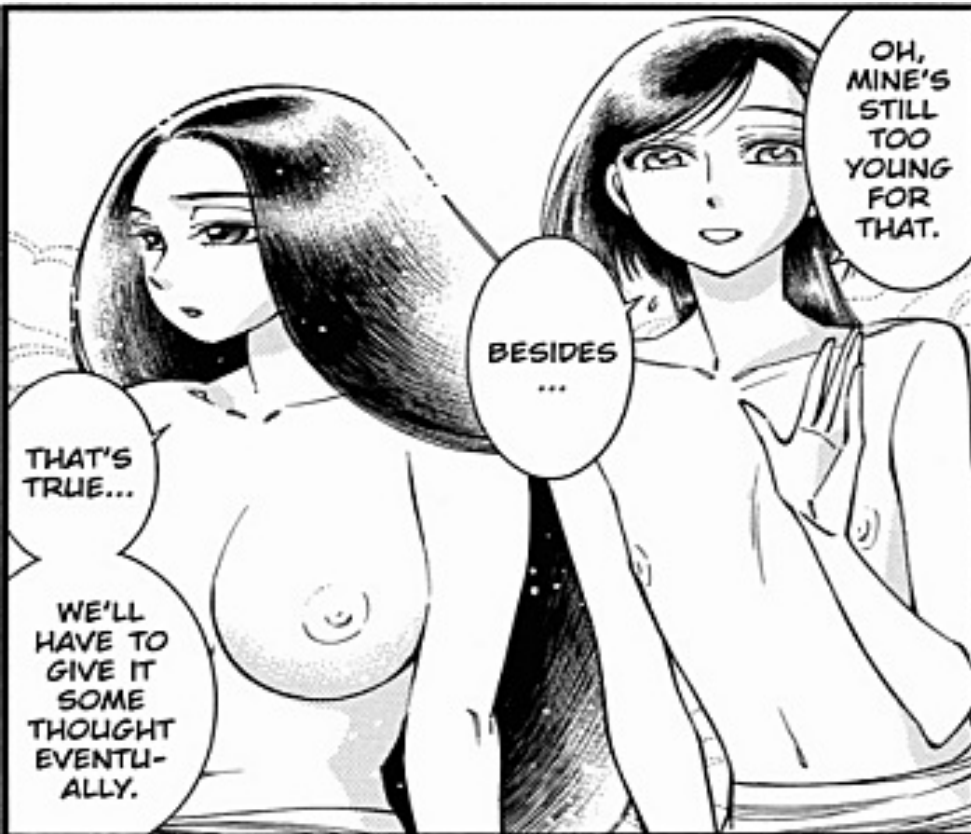


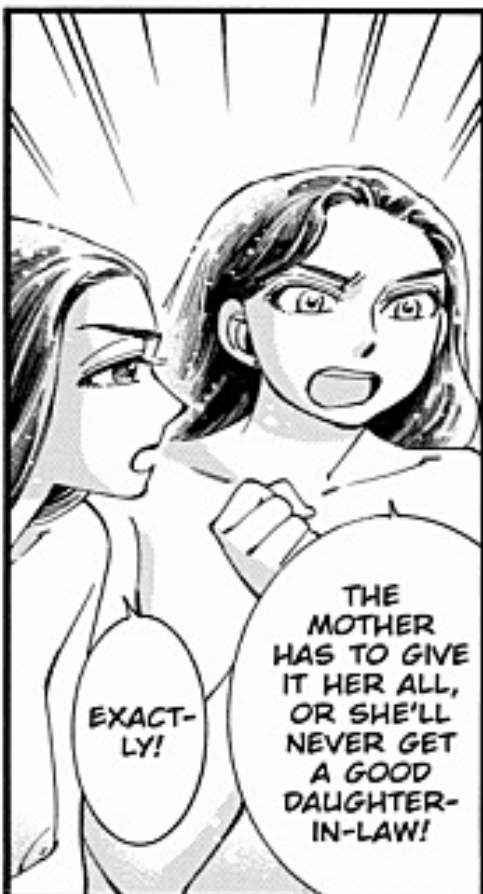
NOW,
NOW.

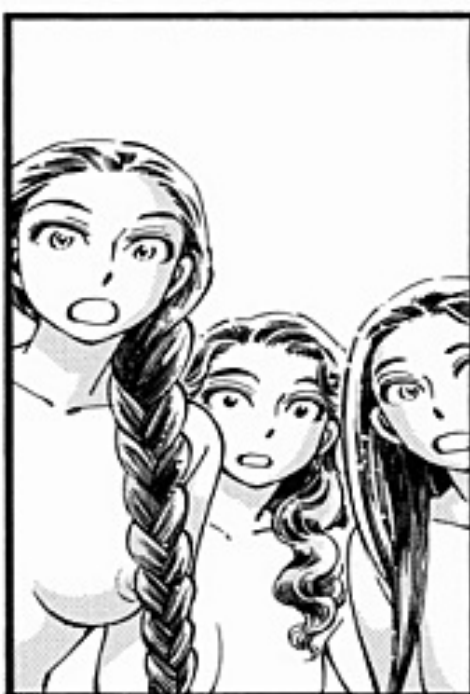
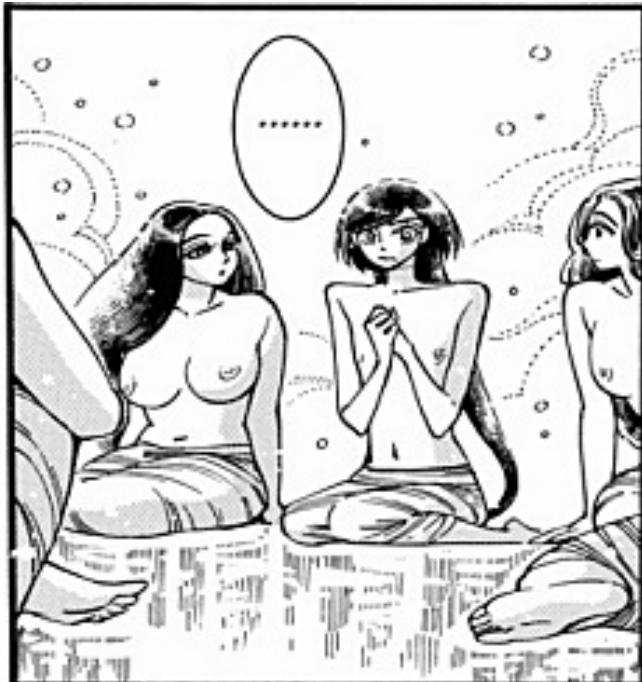
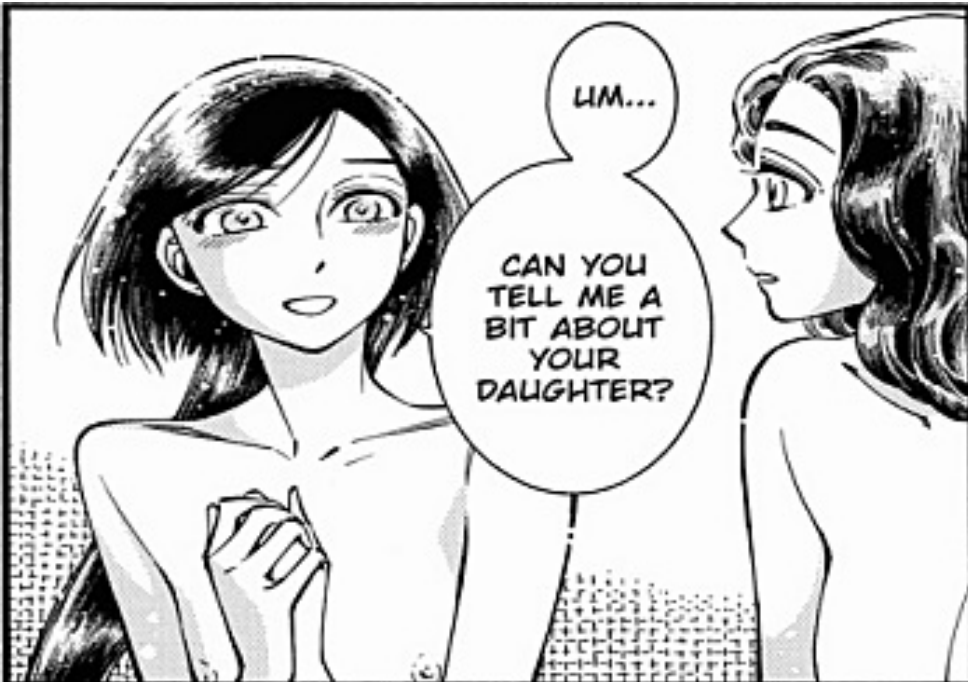
IT'S ALL
THANKS
TO YOU,
SHERINE.

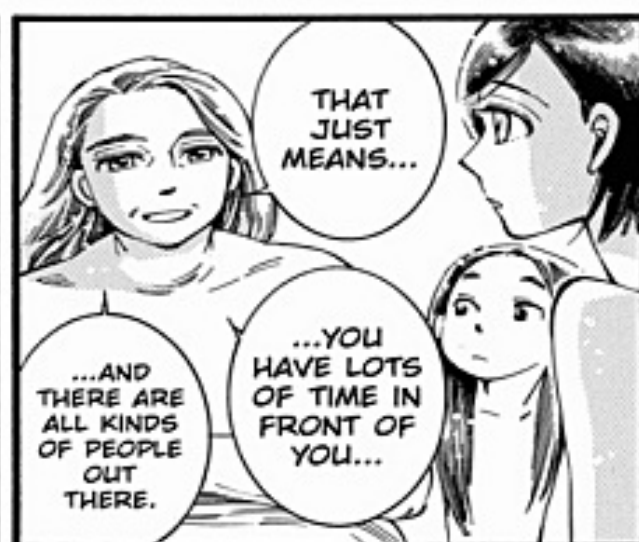
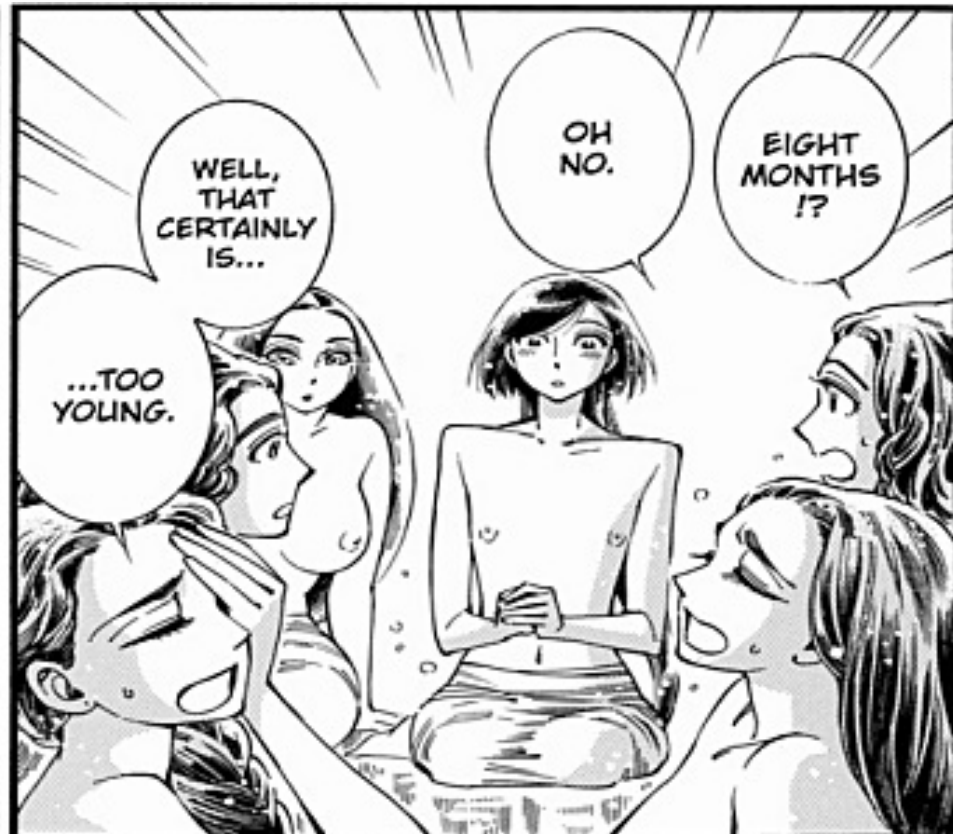


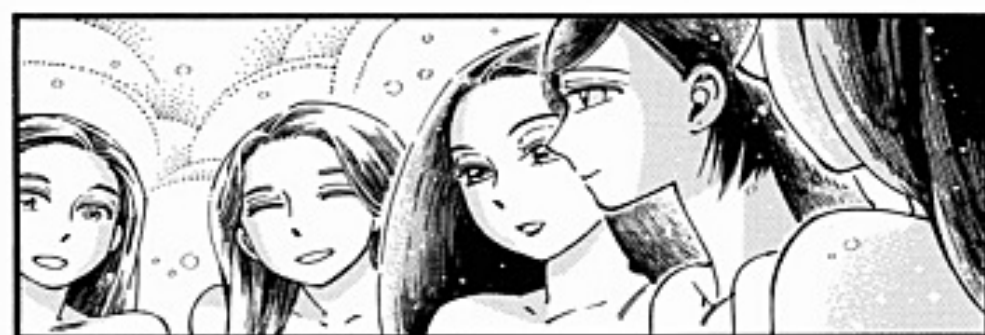
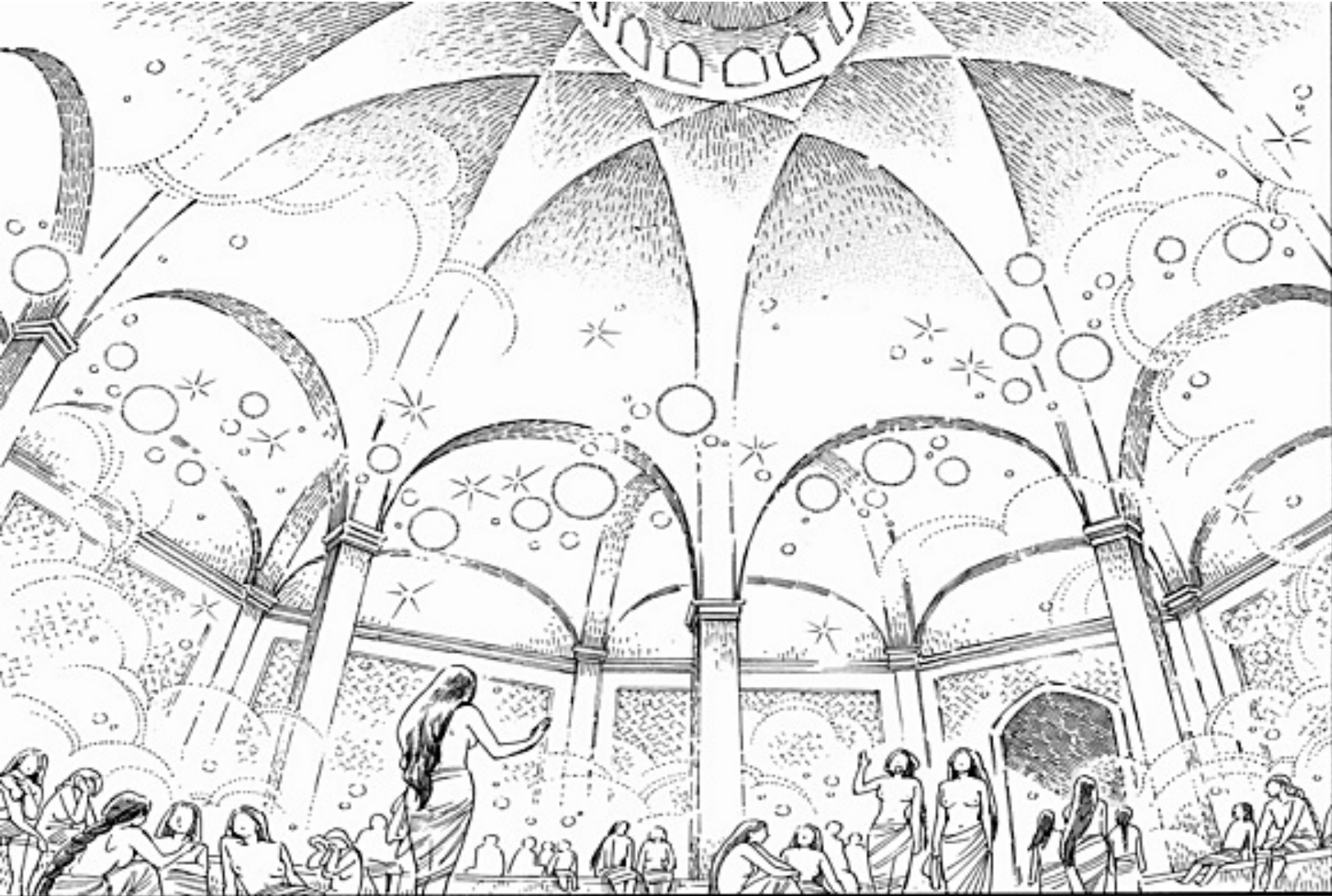


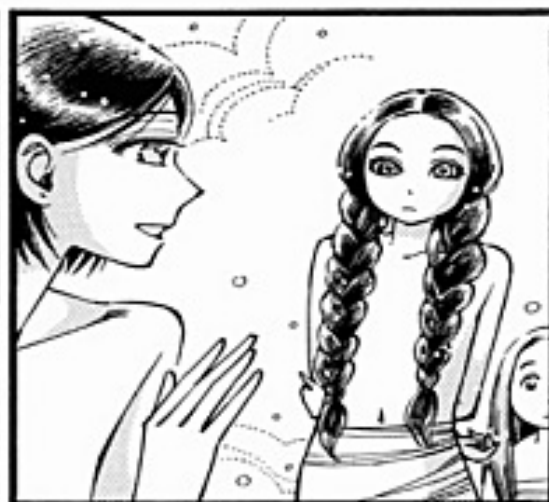
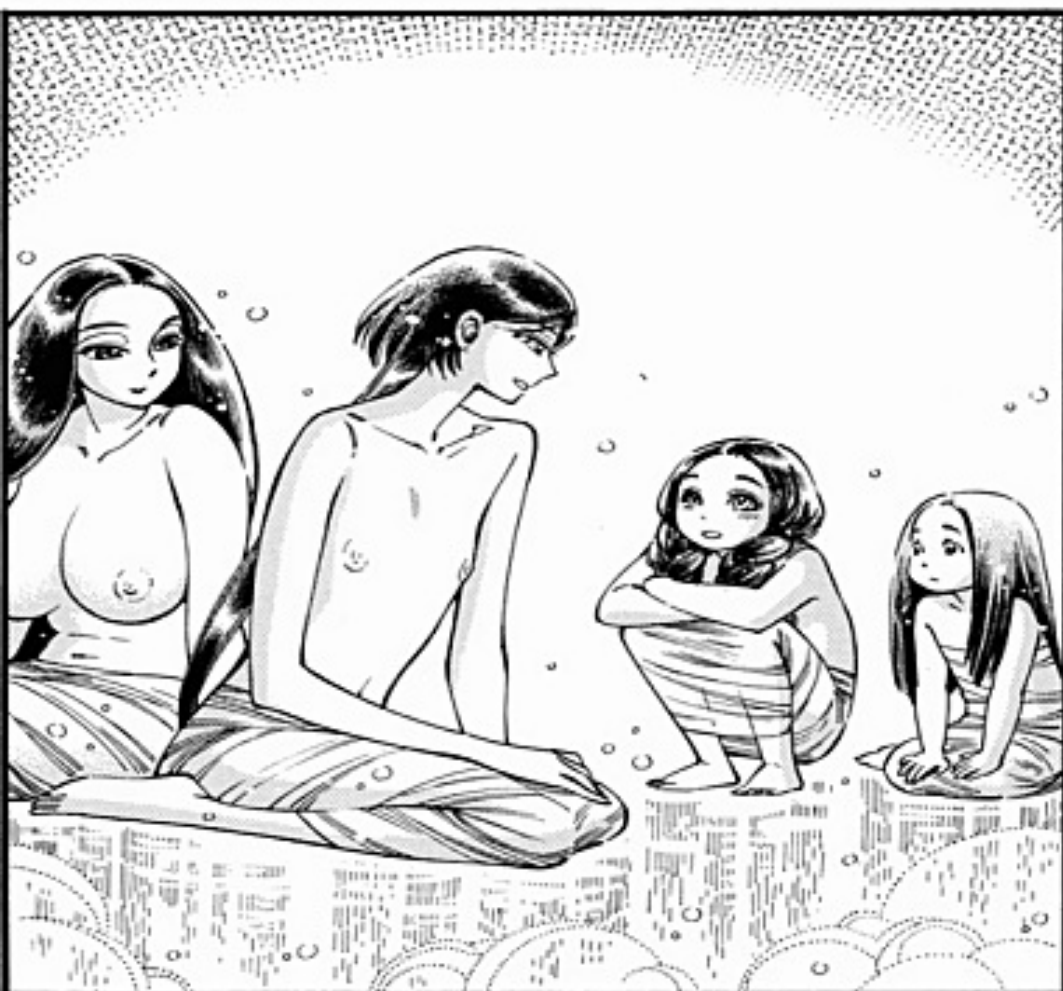
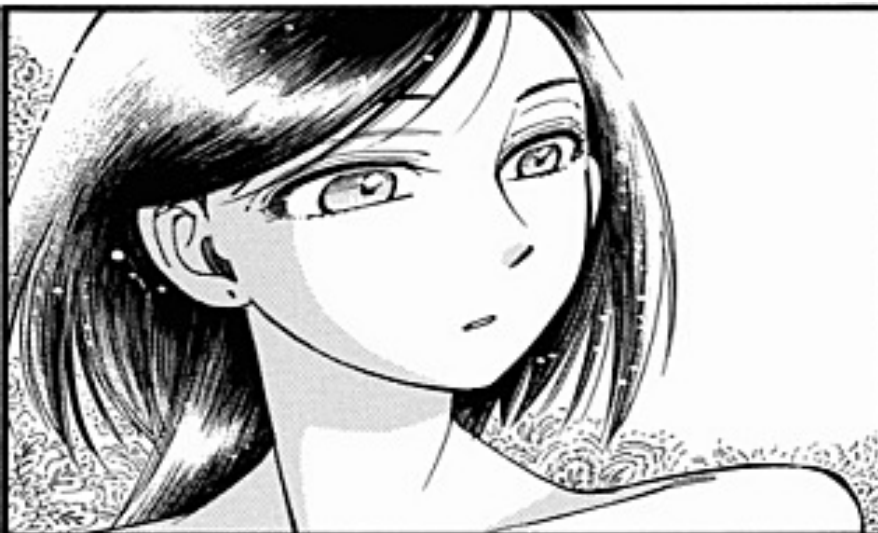




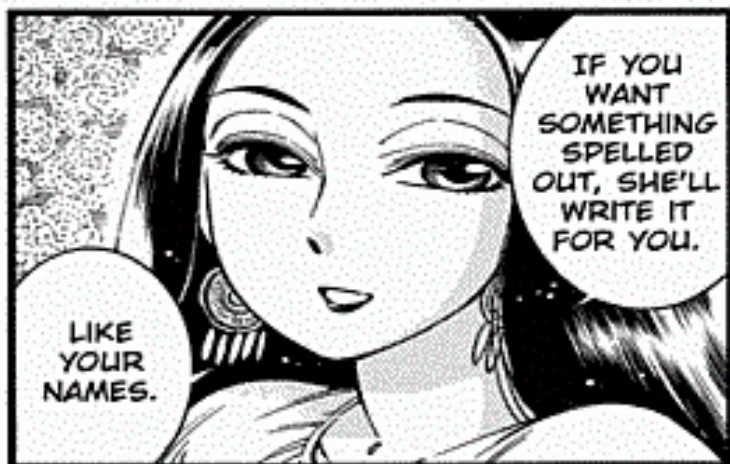
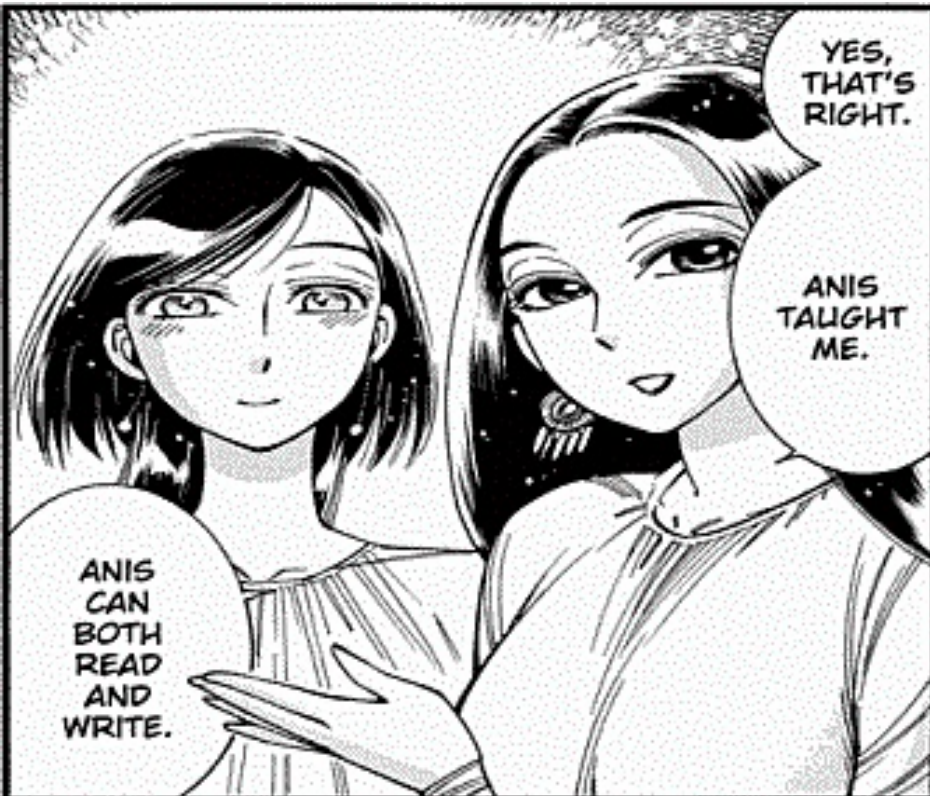


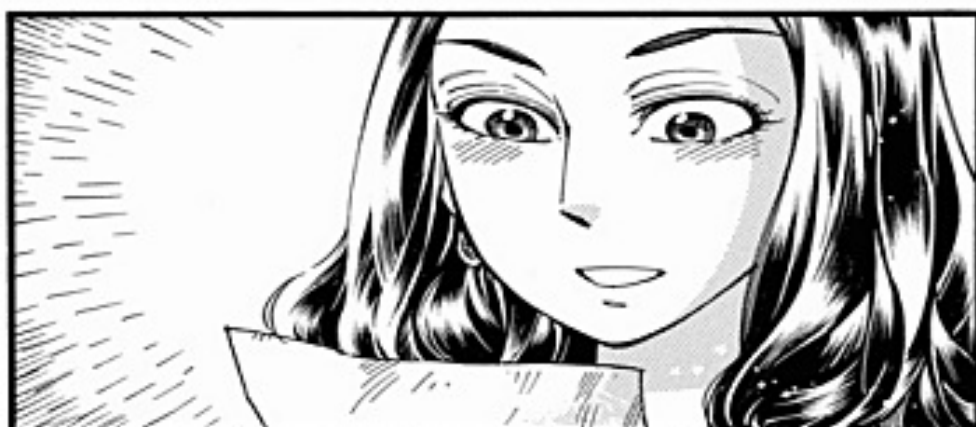
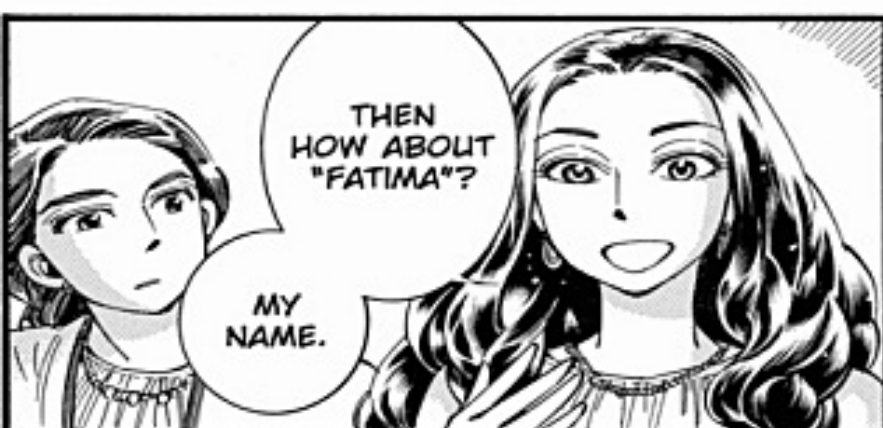


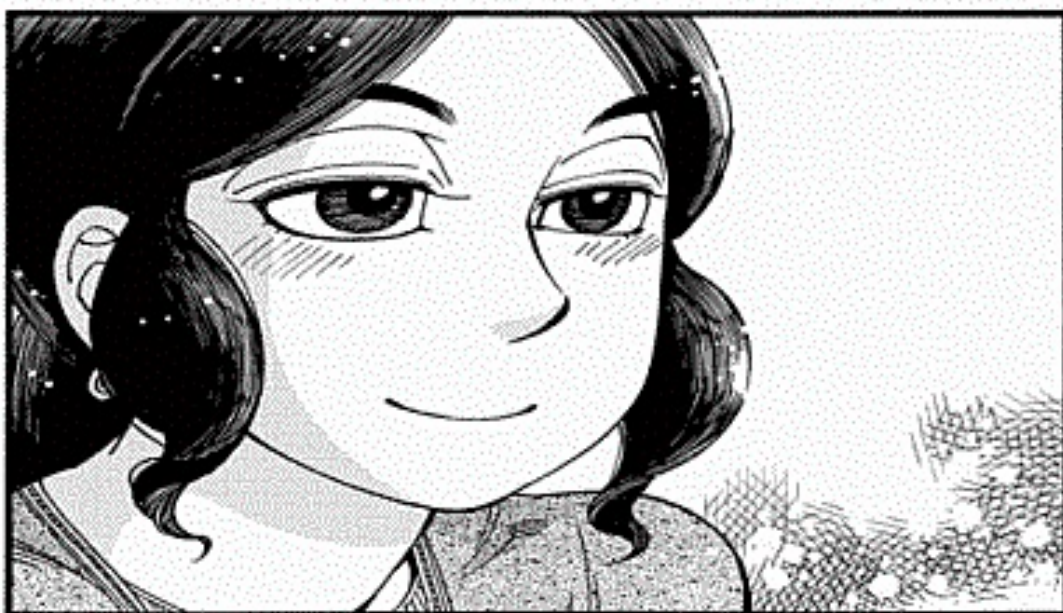














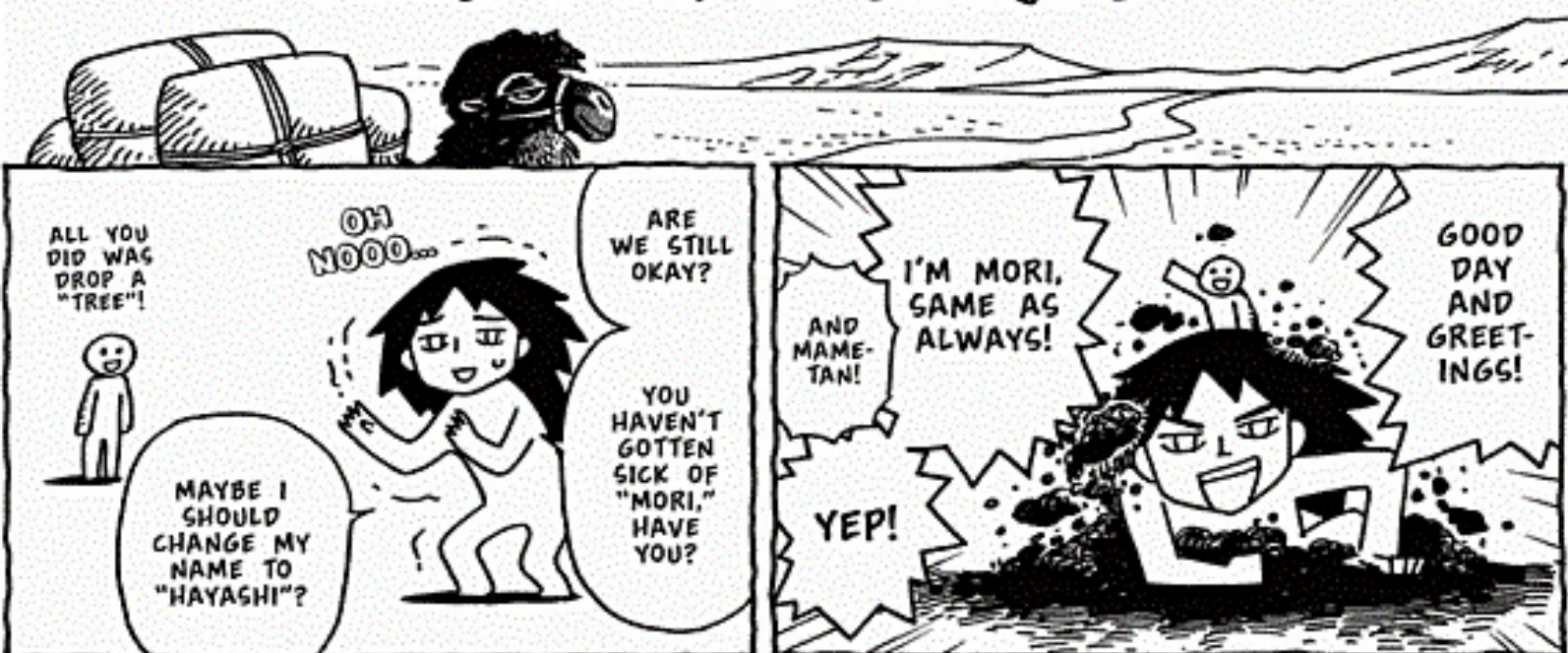


AFTERWORD

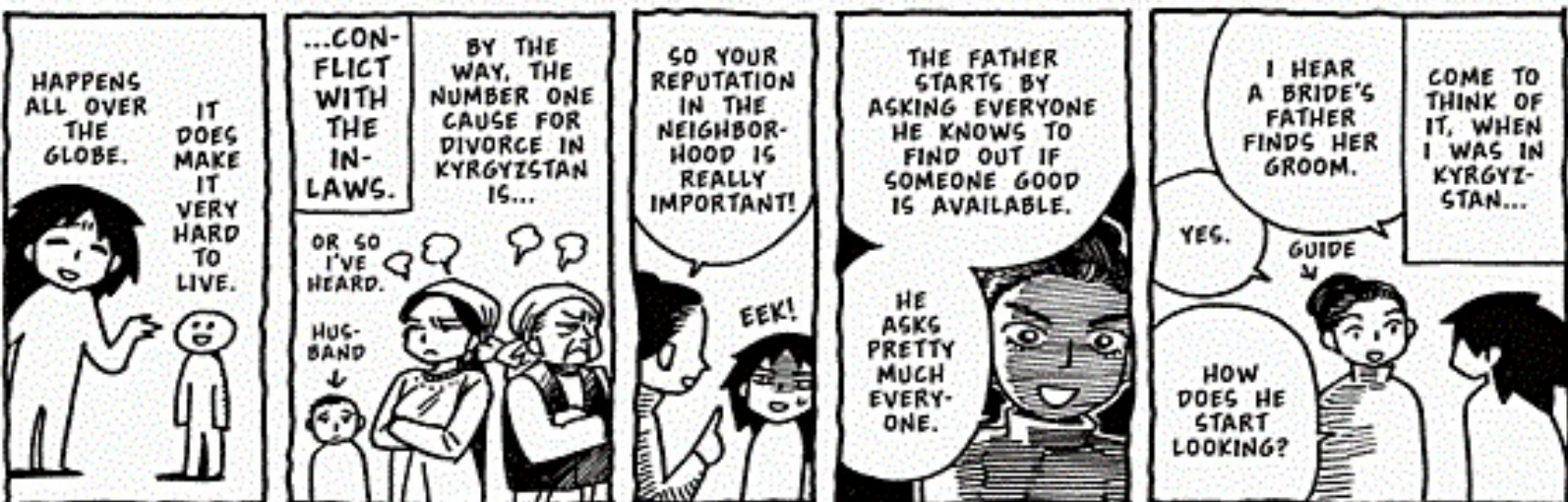
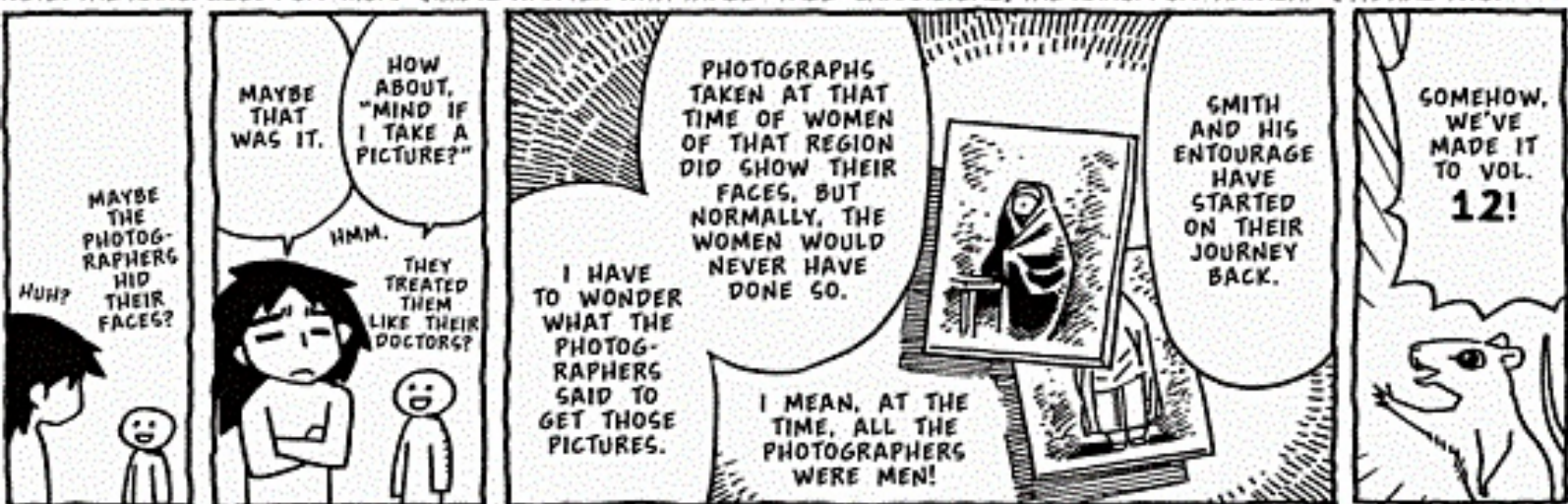




THIS PATH IS A PATH I ONCE WALKED



NOTE: THE KANJI USED FOR "MORI" (森) IS WRITTEN WITH THREE "TREE" CHARACTERS; THE KANJI FOR "HAYASHI" (林) HAS TWO.



TITLE NOTE: "THIS PATH IS A PATH I ONCE WALKED" IS A JAPANESE STANDARD WHOSE LYRICS WERE WRITTEN BY HAKUSHU KITAOKA AFTER A VISIT TO NOKKAI Brought back vivid memories of his boyhood and a sense of loss over those bygone days. In 1926, he worked with KOSAKU YAMADA to set his words to music. In 2006, it was selected by the JAPANESE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND NIPPON PTA FOR A COLLECTION OF ONE HUNDRED MUCH-LOVED SONGS FROM JAPAN.

BECAUSE THE SUN CAN BE BLINDING.
SO ON THE ROADSIDE, THEY PLANT TREES AS A KIND OF ARCADE...

WHY WOULD YOU CRY OVER THE VIEW FROM THE CAR?



I BADLY WANTED TO GO, AND I'M SO GLAD I DID!

OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL ASIA, IT'S THE ONE I HADN'T YET BEEN ABLE TO VISIT!

CRYING OVER THE VIEW FROM THE CAR OF TREES LINING THE STREETS.

...WENT TO VISIT TAJIKI-STAN!

TAJIKISTAN

I'VE HAD A LONG-HELD WISH, AND NOT LONG AGO, IT CAME TRUE WHEN I...

YAY!



GU (BUBBLE)



TWEET, TWEET...

NOW IT'LL JUST BOIL HERE FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.

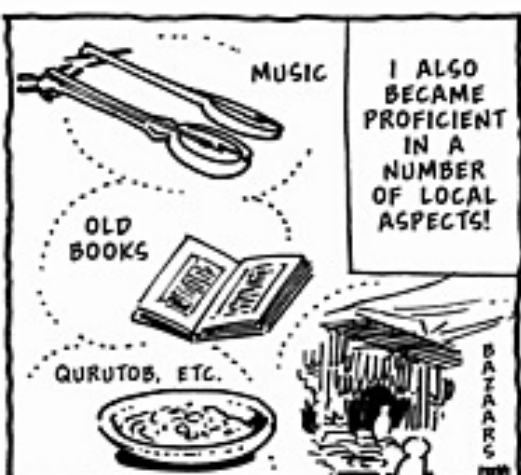
I GOT THE CHANCE TO WATCH AS THEY MADE PLOV (FRIED RICE).

WHERE THE MULBERRY TREES ARE PLANTED, YOU GET THE GENGE THAT MAYBE THE SILKWORM TRADE HAPPENED THERE...

AND WITH THE SIZE OF THE TREES, YOU GET THE FEELING THAT PEOPLE "WAY BACK WHEN" WALKED THESE SAME WIDE STREETS!

AND THI, AND THAT AND THE OTHER...

TOO MUCH INFO!



MUSIC

I ALSO BECAME PROFICIENT IN A NUMBER OF LOCAL ASPECTS!

OLD BOOKS

QURUTOS, ETC.

BAZARS

AND WAITING IS...

...FUN!!

I AM DEFINITELY RIGHT HERE ON THE SPOT WHERE I'M STANDING....!!

YES!



IT'S, LIKE, WELL...

...IT'S ALL, LIKE, THERE.

LIKE...

WELL, YOU KNOW...

HURRY UP AND ANSWER!

UM...

YOU NEEDN'T EVEN ASK! I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU ANYWAY!

SELF-MADE CONTENT: **SELF-INTERVIEW!**

NOW, AFTER VISITING ALL FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES...

...PLEASE, WON'T YOU SHARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS?

AND SIMILARLY, THE UZBEK PEOPLE AREN'T ONLY IN UZBEKISTAN. THEY DID BUSINESS OVER A WIDE SWATH OF LAND FROM CHINA ALL THE WAY TO TURKEY.

THE TAJIK PEOPLE DIDN'T LIVE ONLY IN TAJIKISTAN. JUST THE OPPOSITE. THERE ARE PROBABLY MORE TAJIKS IN UZBEKISTAN.

...WOULD LIVE IN THE VERY SAME TOWN.

A LOT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE...

EURASIAN SUPERCONTINENT

...BUT ONE CAN ALSO GENCE POINTS OF SIMILARITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY TRADE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS UNIQUE FEATURES...

KIND OF LIKE BAGGO CONTINUO, THERE ARE INFLUENCES UNDERLYING THE ENTIRE REGION THAT AREN'T APPARENT ON THE SURFACE!

AND THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP.

...CENTRAL ASIA IS REALLY, REALLY BIG!!

SO TO PUT IT IN A SINGLE PHRASE...

RECENTLY, THE SPREAD OF CULTURE AND SOCIAL NORMS HAS LED TO THE NAME "CENTRAL EURASIA," AND THE TERM HAS GONE MAINSTREAM.

IS THAT SO?

I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD IT BEFORE, BUT...

AND I CAME TO HAVE A FIRSTHAND FEEL FOR THE DISTANCES THESE PEOPLE TRAVELED.

THEY'RE HORSEMEN, SO THEIR RANGE WAS NOTHING TO SCOFF AT!

NOT TO MENTION THE KAZAKS.

HYAH!

I ALSO BOUGHT SOME KHAN-ATLAS CLOTH.

THAT AND THAT AND THAT TOO!

IS IT REALLY OKAY?

SOMETHING LIKE THIS AT SUCH A LOW PRICE...

IT WAS SO CHEAP, I WAS A LITTLE UNEASY ABOUT IT...

GOOD STUFF WITH AN ANTIQUE QUALITY

IF YOU WANT TO BUY SUZANI EMBROIDERY, THE SMART SHOPPERS AIM FOR TAJIKISTAN RATHER THAN UZBEKISTAN.

WELL, I GUESS.

YOU GET GOOD STUFF CHEAP!

YOU'RE SOUNDING AWFULLY SCHOLARLY HERE.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY INFO FOR THE COMMON FOLK?

BOUGHT

IS THAT WHAT YOU MEANT?

AND SO, UNTIL THE NEXT VOLUME...

...TAKE CARE!

I WATCH OVER THEM FROM BEHIND MY BOOKSHELF WHEN THEY'RE EATING.

THEY RUN AWAY IF I GET CLOSE.

THEY'RE USUALLY HIDING, BUT THEY'RE SO CUTE WHEN THEY EAT.

THEY ALL HAVE SIMILAR TASTES IN FOOD.

ALL OF THEM LOVE SHRIMP!

IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE, I RECENTLY MADE PETS OF A SNAIL AND SOME HERMIT CRABS.

THE SNAIL LIVES ON MY VERANDA.

SIEBOLD'S GLOBULAR SNAIL

THE END

A BRIDE'S STORY ⑫



KAORU MORI

TRANSLATION: WILLIAM FLANAGAN

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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